



## Ministers under fire as job losses reach 6,000 in a week

THE government was yesterday accused of "wrecking British industry" as it emerged that job losses for the past week were running at the rate of more than 150 every working hour.

Yesterday's announcement by the Ford motor company that it plans to shed 2,100 jobs increased fears that unemployment, currently standing at more than 2.5 million could approach 4 million before the recession bottoms out and firms start recruiting again.

Conservative MPs said most of the redundancies would be voluntary and that they were the result of improving efficiency in the face of increased competition.

Reported redundancies show that more than 6,000 people were told during the week their jobs would go. The true figure is probably much higher as the effect of small scale company closures take weeks to register in official

The redundancies announced by Ford yesterday have increased fears that unemployment could hit four million. Tim Jones and Jill Sherman report

figures. The figure is more than half of the confirmed redundancies for the whole of December, the last month for which accurate figures are available, which show that 10,367 people lost their jobs. People in motor manufacturing and other heavy industries appear to have born the brunt of the job losses.

Thorn EMI said about 800 white collar jobs at head office would go as a result of a decision to convert about 450 Rumbelows shops to retail outlets for consumer electrical goods. British Coal said it was seeking a further 620 voluntary redundancies and Granada television blamed rising costs for its decision to shed 100 jobs. British Aerospace said 450 jobs

would have to go at its guided weapons plants and warned of more redundancies if it fails to secure a £700m order for a new missile for the RAF. VSEL in Barrow-in-Furness, blamed the recession and the peace dividend for its decision to shed 600 jobs and Vosper Thornycroft, the shipbuilders, said 350 jobs would go in Southampton.

BT, which has embarked on a big job cutting programme, which so far has not involved compulsory redundancies, said 1,500 cleaning jobs would have to go and hinted hundreds of other employees were at risk in its building services division. In Scotland, the Anderson mining equipment group said 160 jobs would be lost

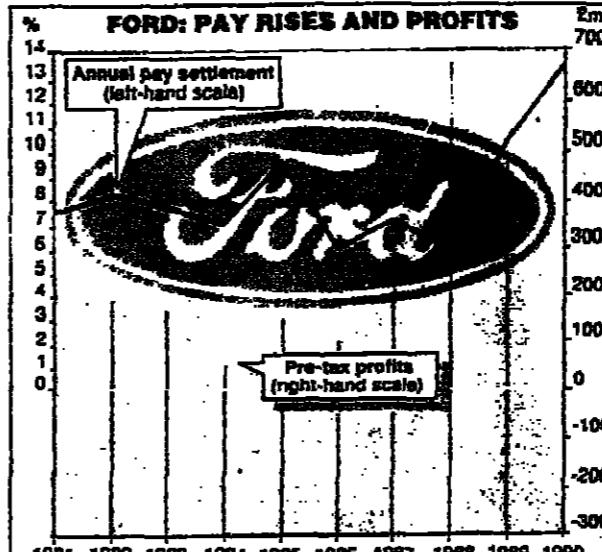
because of a decision to close its plant in Glasgow.

Tony Blair, shadow employment secretary urged the government to use the budget to boost industry rather than lower taxes in the hope of a short term consumer boom.

Gordon Brown, shadow trade and industry spokesman said Labour would step up its pre-budget campaign for action to stimulate investment and employment.

Chris Patten, Tory party chairman ascribed the job losses at Ford to the drive towards greater efficiency. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 new jobs were announced by British Airways yesterday for the manning of a Boeing 747 maintenance base being built at Cardiff-Wales airport.

British Airways Maintenance Cardiff, a BA subsidiary, has signed a single union recognition agreement with the Amalgamated Engi-



neering Union. The agreement will cover a new £70 million base with three hangars to cater for the continuing expansion of BA's and other airlines' fleets. The first phase of the base is due to be operational by April next year, employing up to 1,200 by 1994.

As politicians condemned the 600 redundancies declared yesterday at the Ford Halewood plant on Mersey-

side, union leaders at the factory appeared more relaxed about the losses (Ronald Faux writes).

Peter Moore, the plant's convener for the transport and general union, said that the voluntary redundancies were part of a rolling programme announced last year and agreed in consultation with the union. "We have been with the operations manager at Halewood today and he has confirmed there are no extra redundancies and no more are required."

He said: "David Atton, Liberal Democrat MP for Liverpool Mossley Hill, described the news as another devastating blow for Merseyside, where 71,000 people were without work. It was time that the prime minister and the employment secretary took a deep personal interest in why it was necessary for companies such as Ford to make massive reductions, he said.

"It is the other side of the Nissan coin if the government is going to trumpet about new jobs in the North-East, they cannot shrug off the decision by another company to axe 600 workers."

Eddie Loyden, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, said that the news clearly showed that the recession had not bottomed out and that the car industry was in a precarious condition. Local council officials regretted the losses, even though they were part of a voluntary programme.

A Ford spokesman said that the losses were within a programme for voluntary redundancies running since 1980. The company could not give its final target because one had not been set. The objective was to produce cars competitively and productively. "Unless we do that, there won't be a factory to employ anyone," he said.

Job losses, page 1

### Clarke to take on student unions

By JOHN O'LEARY  
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS are planning to extend the government's anti-closed shop legislation to student unions if the Conservatives win the election.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, has submitted a proposal for a bill on union membership in the first session of Parliament if the government is returned. The National Union of Students would be compelled to have individual members for the first time, rather than acting as a confederation of local organisations. Membership of local unions would also become voluntary if practical problems can be ironed out.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, and a former NUS president, said: "This would be an act of pettiness and vindictive spite, sealed by pigue that the Conservatives have lost so much support among students. It is typical of Kenneth Clarke to abuse his powers when dealing with those who may disagree with him."

### Kinnock reassures aides on benefits

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NEIL Kinnock, the Labour leader, has reassured senior members of the shadow cabinet that the party's spending commitments on child benefit and pensions will be introduced in the first year of a Labour government.

Both pledges are unlikely to be implemented until at least seven months into the financial year, however, reducing the first-year cost from £3.1 billion to about £1.2 billion. This will ease the pressure for tax changes to pay for them.

Shadow cabinet ministers admit that Labour's separate promise to raise pensions annually in line with earnings may be delayed until April 1994 if a bill cannot be fitted into the legislative timetable in a first year. Labour has long been committed to raise retirement pensions by £5 a week for a single person and by £8 a week for a couple "immediately".

The promise is stated explicitly in the preliminary manifesto *Opportunity Britain*, published last April. The same document pledges to increase child benefit "immediately" by restoring its real

value to its level in April 1987 (a rise to £9.95 in April 1992 prices).

Since Mr Kinnock announced that the tax changes to finance the commitments might be phased in, there has been speculation that the pensions and child benefit pledges might be phased, too.

Shadow cabinet ministers say that the changes might not be put through for some months as increased pressure on parliament may force a change in benefit levels.

A spokesman for the social security department confirmed that it could take six months or longer to introduce a change in benefit levels, depending on parliamentary time.

The government would have to lay down affirmative regulations, these would have to be debated, written and then passed as law.

The earliest that raising pensions in line with earnings could be implemented is April 1993. If other legislation took precedence in a first year, the move could slip to April 1994, shadow cabinet members admitted yesterday.

A Labour spokesman said last night that the party would still start implementing the changes "immediately". A senior Labour source said yesterday that it would take at least five months to sort out the new orders for raising pensions, and that child benefit changes would probably be introduced at the same time — in October or November.

Tory 'blunders', page 6

### Reynolds cabinet to break from old style

By JAMIE DETTMER

ALBERT Reynolds, Ireland's prime minister-designate, is likely to make sweeping cabinet changes on Tuesday when he is formally confirmed as leader by the Irish parliament.

So comprehensive was his victory in the Fianna Fail leadership contest on Thursday that Mr Reynolds has virtually a free hand. He is likely to bring in fresh blood and promote more women.

Up to six ministers could be sacked, including Gerard Collins, the foreign minister, who has had a good working relationship with Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary. Although well thought of by the British government, Mr Collins's tenure as foreign minister has been seen by many in the Dail as lacklustre.

He also suffers, as do most of the possible ministerial casualties, from too close an association with Charles Haughey, the outgoing prime minister. Above all, Mr Reynolds seems to want to break from the Haughey style of leadership and to end the public view of ministers being involved in shady dealings.

The other casualties are likely to include Ray Burke, justice minister since 1989, Michael O'Kennedy, labour minister, and Rory O'Hanlon, environment minister. The two most recent appointments, Vincent Brady, defence, and Noel Davern, education, who were promoted to replace ministers sacked last November for plotting against Mr Haughey, are also talked of as possible casualties.

Marie Geoghegan-Quinn, sacked by Mr Haughey as a minister in his own office last autumn, is being tipped to succeed Mr Collins. Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn was the first woman deputy to reach cabinet ministerial level since the foundation of the republic. She is a fluent Irish speaker and has wide experience of European Community affairs. A dynamic politician, she was a member of Mr Reynolds's campaign team in the leadership ballot.

David Andrews, a strauch opponent of Mr Haughey, could become justice minister. He served in government under Jack Lynch, but was dropped when Mr Haughey became Fianna Fail leader in 1979. He is a barrister who has the reputation of being pragmatic.

Aware that large-scale sackings could create a powerful focus of resistance to his leadership among the old guard, Mr Reynolds will probably avoid pushing our more than half a dozen ministers.



Mourners at the funeral of Michael O'Dwyer  
Bishop urges city not to lose hope

BELFAST was now a city where fear was gripping homes, evil terrorising streets and hatred embittering hearts, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor said yesterday.

The Right Rev Patrick Walsh told the hundreds of mourners at the funeral of Jack Duffin, aged 67, the first to be buried of the five people shot dead in a bookmaker's shop by Loyalist gunmen on Wednesday, that they must not lose hope. "The barriers to peace appear to be insurmountable, to be immovable like the mountains which cradle our city... [but] we have faith in Christ and can and must move them."

Earlier, Bishop Walsh officiated at the funeral in west Belfast of Michael O'Dwyer, aged 21, one of three men shot dead on Tuesday at the Sinn Fein office by a police man who then committed suicide. Hundreds of mourners heard the bishop speak of the "dark cloud" cast over the city by the appalling series of killings.

Meanwhile the leaders of Ireland's four main churches yesterday visited hospitals in Belfast to thank doctors and nurses for their work with the victims of violence. They rejected a claim by John Hume, MP, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, that they must not lose hope. "The barriers to peace appear to be insurmountable, to be immovable like the mountains which cradle our city... [but] we have faith in Christ and can and must move them."

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# Fingerprints checked for clues to kidnapper

BY PETER VICTOR

**FINGERPRINTS** and marks thought to have been left by the kidnapper of estate agent Stephanie Slater are being examined by police forensic scientists.

The new development came yesterday as further details emerged of the kidnapper's letter to police, media and family of Leeds girl Julie Dart, whom police believe was killed by the same man. His letter, full of contrite language, says that he is "ashamed, upset and thoroughly disgusted" by his treatment of Miss Slater. He described how he tried to make her laugh and smile during her captivity, but says that it was "heartbreaking to see her face change to one which was terrified".

He says: "I knew I was doing this to her. Even now my eyes are filled with tears. I wake up during the night actually crying."

He says he hopes that Miss Slater will get over the experience, but that he never will. His only satisfaction is that he knew he could, and did, carry out the crime.

The letter, discovered at the regional offices of the BBC in Leeds yesterday, was one of seven sent by the kidnapper. Detectives had alerted the BBC to look for the letter.

Police psychologists from



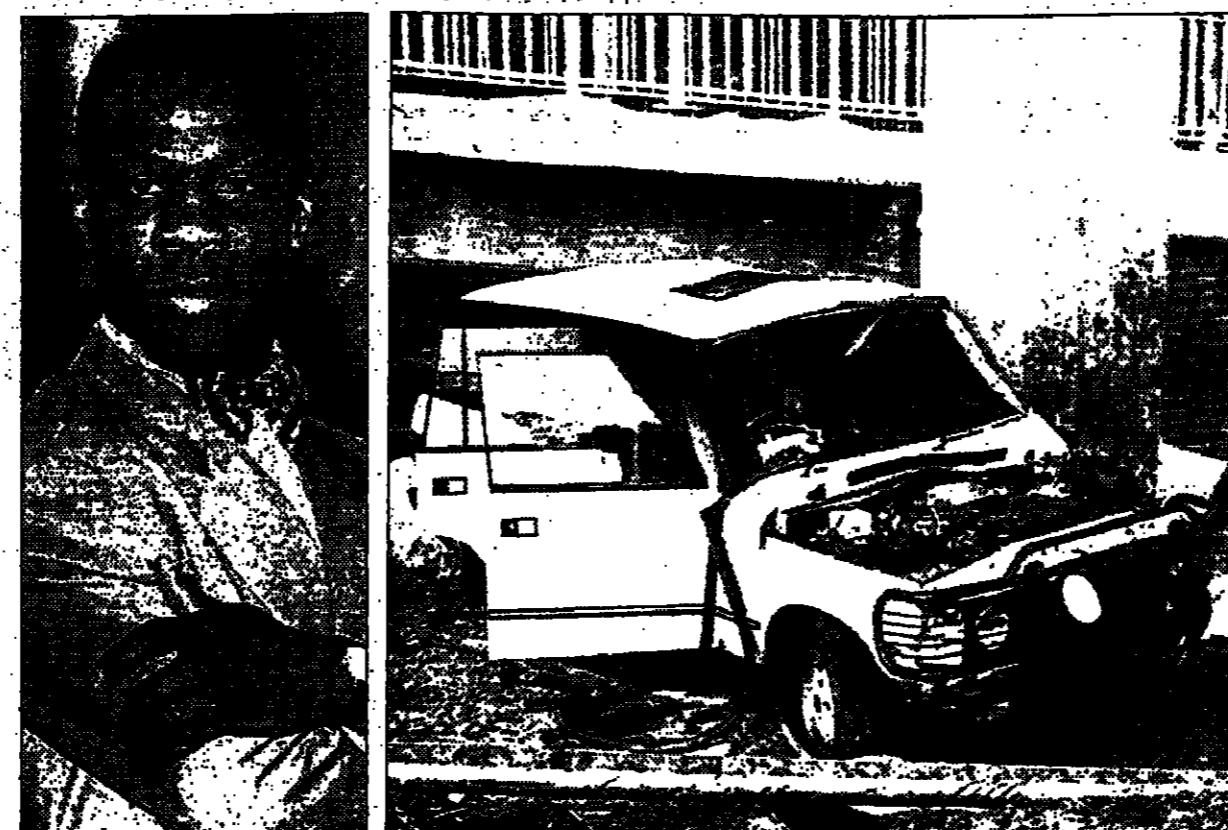
Artist's impression of Miss Slater's kidnapper

## I wanted to die acid case man says

A HUSBAND accused of killing his wife by putting her in a vat of acid in a locked garage said yesterday that he "just wanted to finish it all" after finding her in bed with another man.

Cecil Jackson, aged 36, described at the Central Criminal Court the moment when he found his wife Dassa, aged 30, with her lover. "I saw her and this geezer in bed and I just felt like everything had just come to an end. I was so shocked. I didn't know what to do."

"I just looked at both of them, turned round, and walked out. I had never seen her with another man before. I just wanted to die." Mr Jackson said that he sat at a railway station thinking



Deeply upset: Chris Eubank, before the crash, and right, his Range Rover at the scene yesterday

## Eubank bailed after death crash

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA

CHRIS Eubank, the world super-middleweight boxing champion, was released on police bail last night after being involved in a car crash which killed a workman at roadworks on the A23 in West Sussex.

West Midlands police refused to discuss the origin of another three marks believed to have been left by the kidnapper. Detectives would not say where they were found or what type of marks they were, but confirmed that they were being examined.

The fingerprints have already been checked against Scottish records, which are computerised. The process will take a great deal longer in England, where records are checked manually.

Police have now received more than 4,000 calls from the public in response to an artist's impression of the kidnapper, produced with Miss Slater's help.

Kevin Watts, Miss Slater's colleague who acted as courier for the ransom drop, told *The Sun* that the journey to deliver the money was a nightmare. He drove through swirling fog, at the direction of the kidnapper, from Birmingham to a bridge near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, where he was ordered to leave the £175,000 on a wooden tray. Mr Watts was in continuous contact, via a hidden microphone, with police and said he still felt "terribly alone and vulnerable".

**Halifax in £18m plan to rescue borrowers**

BY RACHEL KELLY

PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE Halifax building society yesterday announced an £18 million mortgage rescue scheme with three housing associations, the second such scheme to be launched.

The Halifax refused to say how many families would be rescued by the mortgage-into-rent scheme, but it is likely to be about 300. The deal is part of plans announced yesterday to keep 3,500 borrowers with arrears in their homes.

The mortgage-into-rent scheme involves the Halifax offering loans to the Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association, Hyde Housing Association and the North British Housing Association and deals with London properties.

The Halifax refused to disclose the reduced interest rate at which it will offer loans to the associations to buy properties from borrowers in arrears. Its spokesman said that the terms were "far more realistic to all parties than those we have seen detailed in the press to date".

Nationwide announced the first mortgage-into-rent rescue, with equity-linked loans at rates from 3.5 per cent to 8 per cent. A Times study last week showed that rates may have to be below 6 per cent to permit affordable rents in loan-to-rent plans with housing associations.

The Halifax's other rescue measures include a "shared appreciation mortgage", by which it hopes to help up to 2,000 families making reduced payments and sharing any rise in house value.

The trial continues on Monday.

Weekend Times, page 15

**THE SUNDAY TIMES**  
The classroom revolution

It is a revolution in the making - the biggest shake-up in education since schools went comprehensive. The government's radical reform aims to halt the rapid decline in standards. Will the changes transform the intellectual health of



the nation, or plunge the system into deeper crisis? The Sunday Times commissioned an independent report by two American experts, John Chubb and Terry Moe. The results of their survey, involving pupils, parents and teachers, are revealed tomorrow.

Magazine special issue - The Sunday Times tomorrow

## Jealous husband shut wife in shed

FOR 50 years a husband locked his wife in the coal shed or a bedroom of their council house every time he went out. The practice was disclosed after the woman was taken to hospital and told nurses.

The information was passed on to a police domestic violence unit in the area, but as the wife did not make a complaint the South Manchester couple are still together.

The husband, aged 76, had said that he did not want his wife, who is two years younger, talking to other men.

WPC Sarah Gathercole said: "She couldn't remember any time during her life when she wasn't locked up, usually in the coal shed, when he went out."

"It was almost as if she had got used to it and for her it was the norm. The wife concerned has been the object of jealous and possessive treatment but has rejected being placed elsewhere."

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## Keays denies revelling in Tory unease

BY A STAFF REPORTER

SARA Keays was in tears near the end of nearly 13 hours of cross-examination in her libel case at the High Court yesterday as she described how newspapers had printed "dreadful things" about her.

The ex-mistress of Cecil Parkinson, former Conservative party chairman, goes back into the witness box on Monday when she will be questioned again by her counsel, John Prentie, QC.

Yesterday Miss Keays denied that she had revelled in the embarrassment that newspaper serialisation of her story would cause to him and the Tory party.

Miss Keays, whose affair with Mr Parkinson ended in 1983 when she was pregnant with his daughter, also denied an allegation that she gloated at the effect the serialisation of her book would have on the Conservatives during their 1985 Blackpool conference.

Her denials came on the fifth day of her action against *New Woman* magazine over an article that she claims accuses her of being a kiss-and-tell bimbo who wrote her book, *A Question of Judgment*, to make money and cause maximum embarrassment to Mr Parkinson.

Miss Keays, aged 44, of Marksbury, near Bath, was being cross-examined by Desmond Browne, QC, for the magazine, which denies libel.

She told Mr Justice Drake and the jury that her real purpose had been to defend her reputation against lies told about her. Mr Browne asked her about a telephone conversation she had, before the serialisation began in the *Daily Mirror*, with the newspaper's assistant editor, John Penrose.

Counsel said that Miss Keays, who taped the conversation, had used the phrase: "It is going to be quite an interesting situation" and had then laughed. Miss Keays said: "You will find that I quite often laugh. I often laugh when I am nervous."

She had wanted the delegates in Blackpool, whom she described as "the people who maligned me", to read what she had to say.

Mr Browne said that Mr Penrose had later told her that the Conservatives had been "squirming with embarrassment" all week. Her reply was "good" and then she laughed.

Miss Keays said: "It meant my message was getting through. I was pleased my words had been read by members of the Conservative party who had attacked me."

Mr Browne asked Miss Keays to recall past events. "Is it really your case that you have acted with complete discretion?"

Miss Keays replied: "It is. Mr Browne. Yes."

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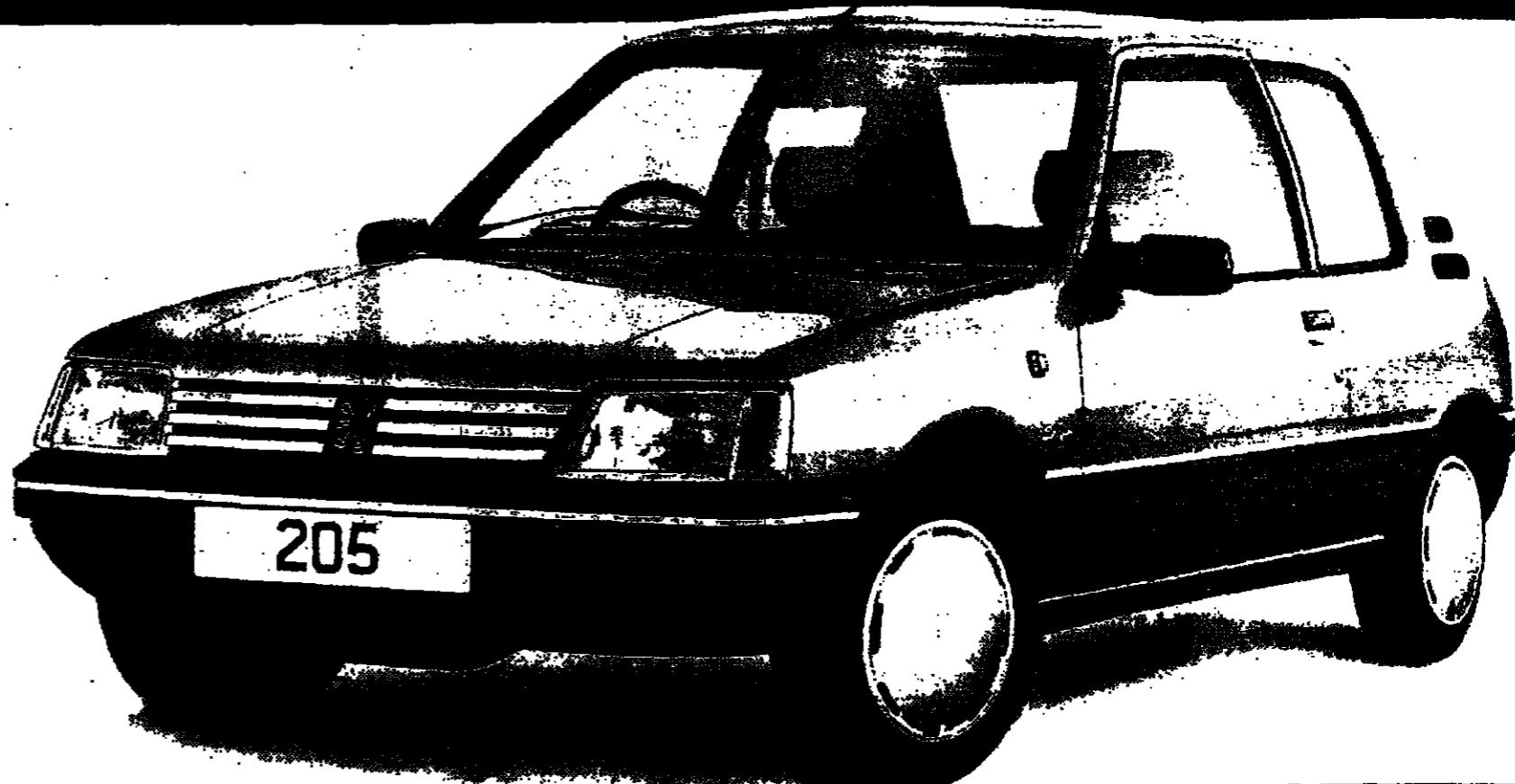
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## Witnesses hide identity at joyride inquest

A SCRÉEN was used to conceal the identity of witnesses at an inquest into the deaths of two joyriders yesterday. The witnesses had feared reprisals after giving evidence at the hearing on Colin Atkins, aged 21, and his passenger Dale Robson, aged 17, whose deaths sparked a wave of riots on the Meadow Well estate in North Shields, Tyne and Wear, last summer.

Atkins and Robson, both of North Shields, died when their stolen Renault Turbo hit a lamp-post and exploded. They were being chased by two officers in a police car at speeds of up to 120mph.

The pathologist who conducted the post-mortem examinations was among those hidden from view at the inquest in Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. One motorist, who was overtaken by both cars, refused to speak and would only write answers to the coroner's questions.

The inquest was told that Atkins and Robson died from extensive burns and multiple injuries. The crash, last September on a slip-road leading to the Tyne Tunnel near Newcastle upon Tyne, led to night-time riots by youths who blamed the police pursuers for the deaths.

Yesterday, several drivers, identified only by letters, told the inquest that they were overtaken by the Renault, which veered from lane to lane on the Coast Road before swerving on to the slip-road to the tunnel.

Police Constable G, a traffic officer who was a passenger in the police Sierra chasing the joyriders, said that the Renault had been noticed driving through the city suburb of Jesmond at

90mph. He and his colleague followed it along the Coast Road but could not catch it. "We reached our maximum speed of 125mph and were unable to go any faster," he said. "The Renault was still going away from us."

He said that they saw its tail-lights as it veered off down a slip-road where the street lights suddenly went out. "I shouted to the driver of my vehicle to slow down because I believed the Renault had crashed," he said. He grabbed a fire extinguisher from the police car and tried to extinguish the Renault blaze. Motorists said that police warned everybody to stand back as the petrol tank was about to explode.

A police accident specialist, named as Police Constable K, said that the police car was never closer than 150 yards to the Renault and was not on the same road when it crashed. He said: "I am satisfied that no contact took place between the two cars at any time."

Brian Gallon, the North Tyneside coroner, recorded a verdict of accidental death. He said: "It is extremely fortunate that there was not a much more serious accident involving other motorists that night, considering the dangerously high speeds involved and the road, which is frequently very busy."

"Unfortunately there have been a number of fast cars stolen in this area in recent months and there have been a number of fatal accidents. I hope that the deaths of these two young men and the dreadful way they died might deter others from similar escapades."

## EC report challenges rabies law

FROM TOM WALKER  
IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community veterinary officials in Brussels will next month give a report to the European Commission that will be used to justify replacing Britain's quarantine rules with pet passports.

A committee of vets, drawn from all 12 member countries, yesterday delayed publication of the report, but sources said that only minor details were awaited and that the commission should soon have the justification it needs to challenge Britain's six-month quarantine law.

EC sources say that the commission is likely to recommend that there be no restrictions on taking dogs and cats between rabies-free countries, that those taken from Britain to the Continent and back be vaccinated before departure and given antibody tests, and that those brought from the Continent to Britain be vaccinated six months before departure, kept in isolation by owners and tested.

## Babies saved by balloons

BY THOMSON PRENTICE  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SURGEONS have inserted and inflated tiny balloons inside the hearts of babies only a few days old to treat incurable congenital cardiac defects.

A report of what is believed to be the world's first such operations is published in *The Lancer* today by doctors at the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Alder Hey. Four babies, aged from three to eight days, have undergone the procedure in the past few months. Although not a cure in itself, the technique enabled the infants to survive long enough to have more complex, reconstructive heart surgery.

The infants were born with left-heart obstruction, in which an arterial duct closes during the first few days of life, blocking circulation to the rest of the body. About 200 such infants are born in Britain every year and most die within a few days or weeks.

## Thunderbirds fan saves Virgil's face

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

A 20-YEAR mystery surrounding the whereabouts of one of the most handsome faces of Sixties television has been solved. The disappearance of Virgil Tracey, the debonair pilot in the puppet series *Thunderbirds*, remained a conundrum which would have baffled even the programme's eccentric boffin, Brains.

Most of the original plaster casts of the puppets were kept when the last episodes were filmed at

dios in Slough, Berkshire. Few of the programme's makers gave a second thought, however, to the many props, including Virgil's tanned visage, which were tossed away in rubbish skips in 1971. Strenuous efforts to trace the hazel-eyed pilot of *Thunderbird 2* came to nothing, and puppet maker Christine Glanville resigned herself to making another version of the face.

Then, after appeals for news of Virgil's whereabouts were published in several newspapers, Peter Thorley, once among many Slough children who watched the series being filmed, came forward, clutching the plaster cast he rescued from a skip two decades earlier.

Ms Glanville said last night: "I am absolutely delighted to have Virgil back. Now we have all the original main characters or their casts." She was more coy about whether the belated reunion of the full cast would lead to filming of a new series. "We'll have to see about that."



F.A.B.: the tanned and debonair Virgil Tracey



Ground work: Dave Walker, a worm farmer, releasing his stock on the 25-acre Warlands refilled opencast site in Co Durham where the worms are used to aerate the soil and improve drainage

## Carey helps to save trust for ex-offenders

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, has helped to save a voluntary agency which provides training for ex-offenders. The Apex Trust, which last week was on the brink of liquidation, is expected to survive as a result of funds pledged by businesses after a reception hosted by Dr Carey.

Apex helps 8,000 people a year. The trust operates on the basis that ex-offenders are three times less likely to commit another offence if they find a job.

Although the trust was profitable, cash flow difficulties were caused by a change in the payment of training grants by training and enterprise councils from advance to arrears funding. The added effect of the department's claim and its withdrawal of funding pushed the organisation over the brink.

Malcolm London of Cork Gully, the administrator, said at least £250,000 was needed to save the trust. "We have made a good start and are optimistic."

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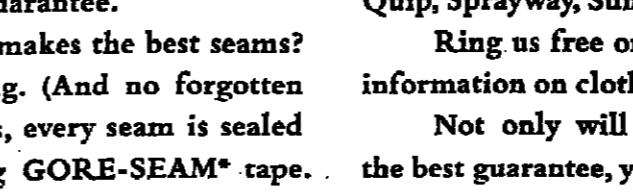
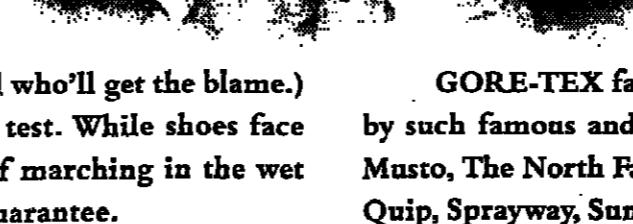
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# Tories accuse Labour of concealing policy costs

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservatives charged back in their assault on Opposition policies yesterday with Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, accusing Labour of keeping silent about the costs it would impose on taxpayers in local government.

The Conservatives also predicted that they would capture several Labour seats in London at the election, including that of Ken Livingstone, the former GLC leader.

Mr Heseltine said that the new tier of regional authorities proposed by Labour would cost £270 million a year. Also, Labour had

## Kinnock condemns 'blunders'

NEIL Kinnock last night attacked the Conservatives for 13 years of "incompetence" which had left Britain scarred by poverty, disadvantage and insecurity. In a speech to more than 1,500 Labour councillors, Mr Kinnock said that people were asking what the Tories had to show for their years in power.

"They've run through £100 billion worth of North Sea oil revenues. They've run through £34 billion of privatisation proceeds," he said. "At the end of it all, they have higher unemployment, wider poverty, rundown services, closed industries, greater insecurity and homelessness."

He told the party's local government conference in Blackpool that Mr Major would leave Britain with the economic "blunders" of skill shortages in the midst of mass unemployment, a balance of trade deficit in the middle of a slump and a collapse in investment in Europe's only oil-rich economy. "It all shows a gift for incompetence that is in the prodigies," he said.

Mr Kinnock condemned the planned council tax replacement for the poll tax as a "messing tax" cobbled together by Mr Major and Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. He said that Labour's "Fair Rates" scheme would be related to people's ability to pay, would stop evasion, be cheap and efficient to administer, improve the accountability of local government and give value for money as well as value for people.

pledged that £2 billion in extra funds would be made available to local authorities in the coming financial year, the equivalent of an extra £60 on every community charge or a penny added to everyone's income tax.

Abolishing the uniform business rate and putting business rates back into the hands of local authorities would mean there was no limit to the increases which could be imposed on the business community by high-spending authorities, he said. By ending capping, a Labour government would ensure that every council in the country would have a blank cheque.

Mr Heseltine said that the average community charge in England was £80 higher in Labour controlled areas than in Conservative controlled ones, after taking into account the effects of the area protection grant. The difference was £60 in metropolitan boroughs, £80 in the shire districts, and £130 in London.

Nine of the ten areas with the worst community charge collection rates were Labour controlled, with one independent. Several Labour boroughs "suspected of being among the worst offenders", such as Lambeth, Southwark, Liverpool and Manchester, had not filled in the forms from which the list was compiled.

On Labour's proposals for replacing the poll tax, Mr Heseltine said: "We hear they plan a new type of property tax with a whole range of values taken into account - capital values, rental values, insurance values, rebuilding costs. And, just for good measure, their spokesmen in the Lords, Lord McIntosh of Haringey, has added a link to household incomes. For each and every home, for each and every person liable to pay, five separate calculations."

At the same London press conference, Michael Portillo, the local government minister, said that Labour's record of high tax, waste and poor services in local government would ensure that the Conservatives won seats from Labour in the capital in the general election.

In recent council by-elections in Hackney and Lambeth, he said, there had been swings from Labour to Conservative of 20 and 23 per cent. He listed as Labour's vulnerable seats Tooting (Tom Cox), Newham South (Nigel Spearin) and Brent East (Ken Livingstone).

## Forgotten medieval hall gains new lease of life

BY PETER DAVENPORT

DOWN a narrow alley off historic Stonegate in the centre of York, dwarfed by the imposing bulk of the Minster, Paul Simons and his team of carpenters are following in the footsteps of craftsmen 600 years ago to recreate a forgotten medieval building.

More than 520 pieces of oak timbers, 47 of them rescued from the original 14th century construction, have been manhandled onto the site in Coffee Yard before being hoisted into place on a specially constructed crane, with only 1.5m between surrounding walls and the largest, swinging beams, 26ft long and weighing 1,900lb.

The project has been more than a year in the planning, from research and selection of trees to prefabrication off site and now assembly. The three-storey section under construction is the oldest part of a great timber-framed house, now known as Barley Hall, dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. Built as a monastic hospice for Nostell Priory, near Wakefield, it was later leased as a residence to wealthy York citizens.

Despite its location in York's centre, the hall had been forgotten for several centuries. Over the decades, poor quality brick additions and makeshift repairs had disguised its age and nature. By the 1980s, it appeared to be no more than a run-down plumbers' workshop, due for demolition.

Only when a conservation architect, Russell Wright, examined the building was its significance recognised. In 1987 it was bought by the York Archaeological Trust.



Back to the future: workmen planing timbers, above, for reconstruction of medieval Barley Hall, York, in artist's impression below

which commissioned the painstakingly accurate reconstruction that is now taking place.

Dendrochronology, or tree-ring dating, has established that the timber for the three-storey north wing of the L-shaped hall was felled in the spring of 1360, during the reign of Edward III.

The building is being assembled with 25 types of joint, the same as those used by the earlier carpenters, and reinforced with 1,500 oak pegs.

Restoration of the outer shell of Barley Hall, including its later two-storey section, is due to be completed by late spring. York Archaeological Trust intends to make the building a working medieval household for visitors, but that part of the programme depends on the success of a £1.2 million appeal.



## Anti-EC group to contest seats

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of a group opposed to a federal Europe yesterday described John Major as the most incompetent prime minister since the war.

Alan Sked and Tim Hedges, who will stand against cabinet ministers in the election, accused Mr Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, of destroying the Tories' record for competent financial management and defence of the national interest, by signing

for closer European unity. Launching their campaign at a Westminster press conference, the two men announced the first three candidates to stand for the Anti-Federalist League. Thirty-six more candidates are expected to be announced soon. They will stand in seats, usually marginals, where all the other contenders support the Maastricht treaty.

Dr Sked, professor of history at the London School of Economics, will contest Bath where Mr Patten, Conservative party chairman, has a 1,412 majority. An open letter to the voters accuses Mr Patten of deriding Britain's independence.

Mr Hedges, a business consultant, will stand in Bristol West against William Waldegrave, the health secretary, (majority 7,703) and Rodney Atkinson, a merchant banker, will fight Hexham (Tory majority 8,066). Dr Sked said that the league was expecting to field a candidate in Wallasey where Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, has a majority of 279.

Although Dr Sked denied that his candidates were disaffected Tories, they are likely to split the Conservative vote. He said that he had talked to Margaret Thatcher about his election challenge and said that the former prime minister had not tried to dissuade him from fielding candidates.

Treaty signed, page 9

## Timeshare curbs nearer

BY JOHN WINDER

TIMESHARE companies that use high pressure sales tactics to coerce customers into signing agreements may be forced to allow a 14-day "cooling off" period. Any operator not informing buyers of this right to cancel would face fines of up to £2,000.

The Commons yesterday gave an unopposed second reading to the timeshare bill proposed by Andrew Hunter, Conservative MP for Basingstoke. With support from the government and the Opposition, the bill could go through Parliament before the election, although it may be superseded by European Community legislation. Mr

Hunter said that there were about 10,000 complaints a year and that the behaviour of timeshare companies varied from the unethical to the edge of fraudulence.

Edward Leigh, consumer affairs minister, said: "A substantial minority of sellers of timeshare have used methods which by any standards are unethical and are unacceptable and threaten to bring the whole industry into disrepute. It is right that Parliament should step in and call a halt. The government is offering its full support."

There was a gap in trade descriptions legislation on misleading indications to consumers, which the government intended to plug after a general review of the Trade Descriptions Act, now in progress. His department received more complaints about timeshare than any other industry.

Philip Englefield, aged 48, is alleged to have taken the money over two years when he was a senior partner with a firm in London.

Mr Englefield was arrested at his home in South Kensington, west London, on Thursday. He faces seven charges of theft, false accounting and deception relating to money missing from customers' accounts.

He was remanded on bail by Bow Street magistrates, central London, after his mother agreed to put up a £50,000 surety. He was ordered to surrender his passport.

## Aids virus man accused

A man with the Aids virus has been charged with attempting to harm seriously a policeman by spitting blood at him. The man, aged 21, is accused of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm and with causing actual bodily harm to Detective Constable Neil Nugent of Chelsea police station, west London.

The man of Chelsea, also charged of having unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor, cannot be named for legal reasons. He was remanded in custody to Horseferry Road magistrates, central London.

## Killer jailed

A driver who killed two men as he overtook on a pedestrian crossing was jailed for two years and banned from driving for three years by Stafford crown court. Peter Willets, aged 23, of Tipton, West Midlands, admitted causing death by reckless driving.

## Low turn-out

A primary school with 270 places opened on a new estate at Hamilton, Leicester, for just 13 pupils yesterday. David Axon, the head teacher, blamed the recession for slowing sales of houses on the estate.

## Rabbits offside

The Walberswick village football team in Suffolk has been given a £1,500 council grant to help to pay for a fence to keep burrowing rabbits off the pitch.

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## Woman deacon accuses gay clergy

BY RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN deacon in the Church of England has accused homosexual priests in the London diocese of promiscuity. She also suggests that much of the opposition to women priests comes from homosexual clergy. Church leaders are concerned that as the final vote on the ordination of women approaches in November, the debate will descend into mudslinging.

The Rev Nerissa Jones, curate at St Botolph's, Aldgate, central London, says in a television programme to be broadcast tomorrow that more than a third of London priests are homosexual and few are celibate. "Many congregations would be quite appalled to know that a couple of nights a week their vicar, dear Father So-and-so, is actually coming about London. It would not be good. It is not a godly life." Mrs

Jones added this week: "As a heterosexual grandmother and clergymwoman, I talk to many people about their private lives, and often find that if men cannot openly accept their homosexuality they are more likely to be antagonistic to women."

The London diocese led the opposition to women priests under its former bishop, the Rt Rev Graham Leonard. The new Bishop of London, David Hope, opposes the legislation but, unlike some of his junior bishops, encourages the ministry of women deacons. In the same edition of the BBC1 series *Everyman*, Dr Hope describes a "considerable degree of homophobia" in the church and society.

The bishop speaks of "clear and high standards expected of sacrifice and discipline" on the part of homosexuals and heterosexuals. "Christians ought to be affirming the value and dignity of each and every human being 'created in the likeness and image of God.'

The Archdeacon of London, the Ven George Cassidy, said: "There are many people who appear to be of a homosexual inclination who are bitterly opposed to the ordination of women. It is true that they have a preoccupation in the London diocese."

The new bishop has breathed a marvellous new breath of fresh air and spiritual vision into the diocese. It will be rather sad if people with their own agendas, motivated for whatever reason, try to develop new polarities and mudslinging."

Richard Kirker, of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said: "There are undoubtedly more lesbian and gay clergy in London than in any other diocese. You cannot with credibility argue for the ordination of women and not homosexuals, or vice versa."

Naked truth? Weekend Times, page 3

## Islamabad seeks renewed US aid

# Pakistan confesses bomb capability

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF



PAKISTAN has for the first time admitted that it has the components and expertise to assemble at least one nuclear bomb.

Marking the first time a Pakistani official has publicly acknowledged the extent of the country's nuclear programme, Shabir Khan, the senior official at the foreign ministry in Islamabad, told *The Washington Post* in an interview published yesterday: "The capability is there." The interview was conducted after Mr Khan assured American officials that his country would not explode a nuclear device or sell the technology to another country.

He said that the components in Pakistan's possession included "elements which, if put together, would become a device". These included potential weapons cores fashioned from highly enriched uranium. Mr Khan said that he was acknowledging the extent of Pakistan's nuclear programme in order to close "credibility gaps" arising from past official denials of attempts to develop an atomic weapon.

Disbelief of those denials led the US Congress in 1990 to order a ceiling of some \$573 million (£318 million) in aid to Pakistan. Mr Khan said leaders of the government, which came to power in

Gates: CIA was aware of nuclear potential

October 1990, had decided to set the record straight in an attempt to win a resumption of American aid.

He said that he had not been told how many nuclear devices could be assembled from the components, but added that his government last year permanently froze production of new weapons cores. Destruction of the existing cores is one of Washington's conditions for resumption of aid, but Mr Khan said that Pakistan would destroy them only if India did the same.

Robert Gates, the director of the CIA, told a Senate hearing in Washington on January 15 that "we have no reason to believe that either

India or Pakistan maintains assembled, or deployed nuclear bombs. But such weapons could be assembled quickly, and both countries have combat aircraft that could be modified to deliver them in a crisis".

The International Atomic Energy Agency said yesterday that four of its high-ranking officials had been invited by Iran to discuss Tehran's nuclear programme amid reports that it is also seeking to develop nuclear weapons. The officials had left for Iran on Thursday and were expected to hold talks with Iranian officials and visit known nuclear research sites in and around Tehran.

They are there for discussions but if the Iranians want to take them somewhere for a look then they'll do this," said David Kydd, an agency spokesman. Diplomats said Iran might be trying to use the visit to dispel Western concerns about its nuclear weapons ambitions.



Team spirit: President Aquino and her presidential candidate, Fidel Ramos, the former defence minister, acknowledging supporters at a rally in Manila yesterday. The three-month campaign begins in earnest today, and at stake is not just the question of who will succeed Mrs Aquino, but also 17,200 posts from national to village

presidential candidate — even while on trial for more than 50 criminal charges. Mrs Aquino is stepping down after six years in office. She says her democratic reforms are completed. Her candidate is pitted against Ramon Mitra of the Philippine Democratic Struggle party and Eduardo Cojuangco, a Marcos sympathiser.

## Li returns to hero's welcome

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON  
IN PEKING

LI PENG, the Chinese prime minister, was given a hero's welcome on his return to Peking yesterday after his first trip to the West since the suppression of the democracy movement in 1989.

His name is closely linked with army repression, being the man who declared martial law in 1989 and who raged in public against the pro-democracy students. But Mr Li's increasingly prominent international profile makes it unlikely that the Communist party will feel it necessary to remove him from the post of prime minister. Shortly after the Tiananmen Square massacre, Chinese and foreign analysts had expected him to be made a scapegoat.

Local television reports of his travels did not mention that he had encountered criticism of his country's human rights record throughout the tour, which included attendance at the United Nations Security Council summit. Also omitted was that protesters had forced him to cancel talks in Barcelona.

## Cabinet minister challenges clergy

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S fundamentalists are facing a challenge to their power, both from within the government and the new look liberalised army. The moves are intended to reverse a trend towards greater Islamisation that has gone on for more than 40 years.

Exasperation of the hardliners has grown after an Islamic court's ruling that all financial transactions must be conducted without charging interest. This would render the banking system unworkable and practically wipe out foreign investment. It would also disrupt the work of international aid agencies.

Two banks, one government-owned, have appealed to the supreme court against the ruling, which is due to be implemented in June. Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali, the minister of state for economic affairs, said this week that in the meantime there would be deep uncertainty, damaging Pakistan's economy.

"Questions about this ruling are being asked by foreign investors," he said. "For the first time, Pakistan has a chance to break out of its isolation and open its doors to free-market forces and integrate with the world economy, but this court decision could take that chance away."

He said it was time to challenge the fundamentalists,

ists, who wielded power far beyond their electoral mandate. "Parliament, the administration, the civil service and the army are all fed up with them. This represents a remarkable change for Pakistan. The die is cast; there is no going back now."

Sardar Asif said Pakistan's change of policy over Afghanistan amounted to a rejection of the fundamentalist position. Pakistan had started to make "rational decisions rather than fundamentalist decisions".

Sardar Asif, who recently toured Central Asia, said there had been concern there that Pakistan had backed fundamentalist mujahedin groups in Afghanistan. The republics felt that President Najibullah represented the forces of progress in Afghanistan, and should be supported.

The army is now headed by a liberal, General Asif Nawaz, who seems determined to reduce the influence of the fundamentalists. Much of their power was institutionalised by President Zia, the former dictator. Mian Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister, who wants to promote Pakistan as a modern, economically liberal Islamic state, will have to move cautiously to prevent a fundamentalist backlash.

## Vietnam sticks to the old red road

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HANOI

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the world seemed to fall apart for Nguyen Phuong Minh, a Communist party of Vietnam ideologue and holder of the Order of Anti-American Resistance. "It was a nightmare, a hurt and a sadness for those who believe in communism, especially for Vietnamese communists," she said.

"We grew up on the Soviet experience and the assistance from the Soviet Union during our wars of liberation. Suddenly it was not there any more."

This week the country celebrated the 62nd anniversary of the founding by the late President Ho Chi Minh of the Indochinese Communist party, precursor of the Communist party of Vietnam. Red banners strung across main streets in Hanoi proclaiming "Long Live the glorious Communist party of Vietnam" mingled with decorations celebrating Tet, the lunar new year festival.

There is something anachronistic about the Marxist slogans. At the same time, nobody is saying communism is going to disappear in Vietnam overnight. "We have to

think in what way we will have to renovate the party and our country," said Vu Hien of the authoritative *Review of Communism*.

"Only by this can we assure the realisation of communism in Vietnam."

His disappearance of Soviet and East bloc aid of £880 million is a blow, but Vietnam has been exporting rice since 1989 and oil revenues are on stream. "Many older people still can't believe what happened," said a younger official. "They suddenly lost their point of reference. Younger party members are more pragmatic. They don't see it as the end of the world."

With market-oriented economic reforms under the "renovation" policies instituted in 1986, living standards are rising. People have money in their pockets to buy Tet flowers, food delicacies and alcohol. "Tactical flexibility and the ability to make concessions saved the party," said one diplomat. "By and large most people in Vietnam are better off than they have ever been. It's the best (time) Tet people in Hanoi and most of the country have had in their lives."

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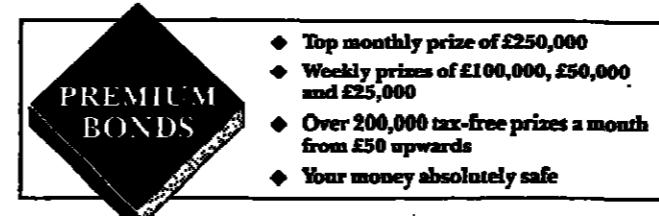
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# Defence casts Tyson in role of rampant sexual predator



Washington: described as sexually aware

TWO weeks into his rape trial, Mike Tyson allowed himself a few grim smiles yesterday as he listened to lawyers casting him as a rampant sexual predator whose approach to women is about as delicate as the smash and grab of the cave-man in old cartoon strips.

The boxer, who faces a possible six decades in an Indiana prison if convicted, was savouring the considerable irony because the damning portrait came not from Greg Garrison, the swaggering prosecutor, but from Vincent Fuller, the boxer's own counsel, and his multimillion dollar team. In an odd reversal of roles, Tyson the primitive brute has emerged as the main weapon of the defence in Indianapolis. For three days they called a stream of beauty contestants and members of the boxer's entourage to report on his courtship techniques. The

The black versus black trial is failing to ignite the powerful public passions of the Kennedy Smith case, writes Charles Bremner from Indianapolis

point was to show that Desiree Washington, a competitor at the Miss Black America pageant last July, fully knew what was in store when she visited the boxer's hotel room at 2am.

On his side, Mr Garrison has taken on the implausible job of casting the pugilist as a civilised fellow whose rough manner with beauty queens was just a Brooklyn version of cocktail party banter. This argument helps diffuse suspicion that "she asked for it".

A single image has loomed over the tiny court for days, bolstered by a videotape broadcast on national television: this was Tyson's ill-fated visit to the contestants

at the pageant, an event that seems to have been less a publicity stunt for the boxer than a sexual shopping expedition. "Mike was basically putting the moves on the contestants... he was grabbing their bottoms," Johnnie Gill, gospel blues singer and friend, told the court yesterday. Miss Virginia described how the boxer cursed her when she refused an invitation, offered in front of the other contestants, to have sex with him. Ms Washington, aged 18 and apparently less "streetwise" than the other contestants, was the only one to offer her telephone number.

When Tyson grabbed the

behind of a contestant and said: "A kiss will do, but sex will be better," this was just his way of breaking the ice, according to Mr Garrison, a freelance "hired gun" prosecutor whose loud "Aw shucks" cowboy-style has visibly begun to grate on the nerves of Judge Patricia Gifford. Tyson's sexual invitation was allegedly made to Tanya Trainor, who told the court yesterday that the boxer used profanity in the vernacular sense. Like when he said he was going to talk with the other girls, he said to me "I'm going to go and \*\*\* with them."

"You mean he was twice and polite and congenial?" asked Mr Garrison. "Yeah," said Ms Trainor, who said she admired the respect the boxer showed for the contestants. The beauty queens have poured acid on Ms Washington's image as the wronged maiden, reporting

her as money-hungry, sexually aware and scornful of what she saw as Tyson's low intellectual wattage. But Mr Garrison has managed to blunt the damage by extracting from all of them a vision of her as starstruck before Tyson's celebrity.

The boxer's own testimony, the most-awaited event in the trial, could radically alter events, but in the view of the platoon of retired judges and trial experts the chance for the jury has been narrowed to a moral dilemma. Since it has been established that Ms Washington led the boxer on, can they convict him and send him to prison purely on her word that she refused her consent once she was sitting on his bed?

Perhaps America has tired of the endless public feeding over "date rape" or perhaps the racial element and lack of television coverage has muted the impact of the Tyson

trial. But it has so far escaped the dimension of national psychodrama and soap opera which rose from the prosecution of William Kennedy Smith. Instead of an American parable, it is being viewed as something of a grotesque sideshow and relegated to the ghetto of the sports pages of those newspapers which are reporting it.

Black commentators see racism rampant in the disdain shown by America at large, but they are also upset over the sordid images emerging from a black-on-black case. "I don't like all those white guys sitting in judgment," said a spectator in Indianapolis, referring to the whiteness of all lawyers, the judge and all but two jurors. "They aren't qualified to judge us like that."

Unease over race was visible in the pained expression of Mayor Stephen Goldsmith of Indianapolis when

he was assaulted with Tyson questions as he opened an exhibition of black achievements in the foyer of the court building this week. "You know, a lot of very positive things are happening here in Indianapolis," he said.

That was a day before fire forced the jury to flee their hotel in which three people died, and before a military plane smashed into a hotel south of the state capital killing 16. For city officials, already beset by a local economic depression, it was an amazing coincidence.

But for many, all the misfortunes of the week had some maybe metaphysical link with the descent in their midst of the former world heavyweight champion and a pageant of beauty queens last July. "It's the curse of Tyson," they joked gloomily in a doughnut shop as a snowstorm added to the grey of winter in the Midwest.

Focus shifts from Third World agenda

## Top UN jobs go in pro-Western move

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A WEEK after a United Nations Security Council summit called on Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, to revamp the organisation, he announced sweeping changes yesterday that left blood on the carpet.

Dr Boutros Ghali made deep cuts in the upper echelons of the top-heavy UN secretariat, moving the focus of UN activities away from the Third World agenda of economic development onto the West's concern with political and security affairs.

Fourteen of the 48 UN officials in the top two tiers of the secretariat — the ranks of under-secretary-general or as-

sistant secretary-general — lost their jobs. Many departments were abolished or combined in what a UN spokesman said was only the "first stage" of the restructuring.

Dr Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian, ignored a much-touted plan put forward by an informal group of 30 UN ambassadors, led by Australia's Peter Wilenski, which envisaged the creation of only four second-tier posts.

But the changes in the secretariat were the most drastic in many years, rivalled only by the so-called "Hallowe'en massacre" of 1986. Almost all the economic departments were condensed into a single

department of economic development, which is to be headed by Ji Chaozhu of China. By contrast, the political and security role of the organisation was reinforced.

The peacekeeping department run by the highest-ranking Briton in the UN system, Marrack Goulding, was strengthened with the addition of a new deputy. The assistant secretary-general, Kojo Annan of Ghana, will help Mr Goulding manage the huge expansion in UN peacekeeping operations, soon to include the despatch of thousands of troops to Cambodia and Yugoslavia.

The UN peacemaking role, previously a task of the secretary-general's own office, is to be devolved into two new political departments, likely to emerge as the powerhouse of the United Nations.

One of the two new departments for political affairs will be headed by James Jonah, an under-secretary general and a long-serving UN official from Sierra Leone who ran unsuccessfully last year for election as secretary-general. He will be assisted by Giandomenico Picco, the UN trouble-shooter who was promoted late last year after securing the release of the Western hostages in Lebanon.

The other political department will run by Vladimir Petrovsky, a former Soviet deputy foreign minister who used to head the UN division of the Soviet foreign ministry. A noted innovator, Mr Petrovsky is expected to play a key role in drafting the report on reshaping the UN requested by John Major and the other leaders at last week's summit.

The two new political departments are expected to assume the key functions of early warning and arms control identified by the security council summit last week. Two established UN officials are also likely to emerge as key players in UN reform. Jean-Claude Aime, a Haitian, the leading UN Middle East specialist, was named as Dr Boutros Ghali's chief of staff. He was not, however, promoted to under-secretary-general, the rank held by the present incumbent, because Dr Boutros Ghali did not want him to emerge as a clear second-in-command.

Alvaro de Soto of Peru, who negotiated the recent El Salvador peace accords, will serve as the secretary-general's senior political adviser. The top-ranking American at the United Nations, Ronald Spiers, saw his department of general assembly affairs abolished.

## Peking tails media 'spies'

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

MOSCOW'S KGB may be at a loose end but Peking's State Security Bureau is keeping busy spending a huge amount of time, petrol and manpower following foreign journalists. It is not unusual in the course of a 45-minute drive across the city to spot a dozen people involved in the surveillance operation.

Such is the influence of the bureau in China's corridors of power that it has amassed a fleet of black Mercedes-Benz cars, as well as a less impressive collection of small, orange motor cycles and bicycles — presumably ridden by those who have not yet earned a comfortable seat in a Mercedes. At the bottom of the surveillance ladder are the men, young and old, who stand on corners and mutter into walkie-talkies as a journalist's car goes by.

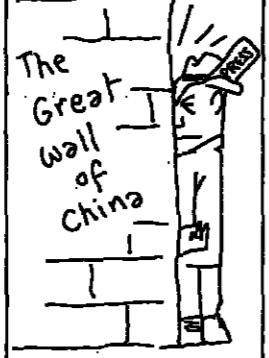
Further from the capital, official paranoia becomes even more intense. Foreign journalists are banned from leaving Peking to report on other areas unless they win provincial approval first. Even areas that are designated "windows to the world" will refuse permission and some officials are very imaginative. I was told by Tibetan officials that I could not go there because there was "too little oxygen".

Why does the bureau bother so much? Partly to

create fat, fact-packed files which might prove useful if the bureau wants to make a case against a certain journalist, or one of their Chinese contacts.

The authorities also know they cannot control what the foreign press prints in the same way they control Chinese editors and they believe foreign journalists are spies.

The State Security Bureau tries to trap journalists with offers of secret



documents for sale. I met a man who claimed to be an army officer. "My nephew wants to go abroad to study," he said. I thought to myself how can I, a simple army officer, make money? Then I thought I can sell state secrets. Would you like some army documents?" It was not clear whether he was a simple-minded bureau officer or just plain simple-minded.



Upping the tempo: President Bush, who jogs daily, sprints against Trevaia Williams, the Olympic heptathlon qualifier, in Las Vegas to promote his plan to help millions who cannot afford health insurance

## Police bias to Inkatha attacked

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SEVERE criticism of apparent police bias in favour of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom party (Ifp) has been made in a judicial report into clashes last year in Natal province in which 19 people died. The report was tabled in parliament yesterday.

The Goldstone Commission's committee on mass demonstrations — headed by Mr Justice Richard Goldstone and set up under the peace accord signed by the government, the African National Congress (ANC), the Inkatha party and other key political groups — concerned a specific outbreak of violence at the Mooki river, Natal, last December. It said evidence given to the committee suggesting that members of the police in the area favoured Inkatha supporters was a matter of concern.

The report said that "urgent and effective steps should be taken to educate and explain to all members the absolute necessity of unbiased policing". The injudicious use of strong-arm methods led to a perception by the public that the police were a law unto themselves. Orders should be given immediately to stop police carrying out raids on the homes of township residents at night in plain clothes, without search warrants and in vehicles with false number plates.

These factors generate hostility towards the police and feed the grievance... that black people are treated as second class citizens," the report said.

## Harkin's presidential goal puts Iowa in the shade

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

FOUR years ago there was not a piglet in Iowa safe from the coddles of one of the 13 presidential candidates dashing maniacally around the state in search of photo-opportunities. This year they are rooting in the mud in peace.

On Monday the first real votes of the 1992 presidential elections will be cast in the Iowa caucuses, but America could not care less. In 1976 these curious little political gatherings in 2,300 homes, churches and community halls across the state launched Jimmy Carter's triumphant campaign for the White House. In 1988 they nearly killed George Bush's campaign at birth, putting him third behind Robert Dole and the Moral Majority's Pat Robertson. This year President Bush is unchallenged, and the presence of Tom Harkin, Iowa's senator, on the Democrats' slate has killed the event stone dead.

Senator Harkin has not necessarily done his state a favour. In 1988 the candidates spent an estimated 999 days campaigning in Iowa, bringing with them more than 3,000 reporters and half the satellite television news trucks in the country.

This year no candidate save Mr Harkin has been spotted here in weeks. The occasional reporter has turned up to report that there is no story. Hotels, restaurants, television stations and car rental companies have been deprived of their quadrennial bonanza, and this dull farm state of its brief moment in the lime-light. The Hotel Savery in Des Moines, a favourite politi-

cal watering-hole, says it has lost \$150,000 (£83,000).

No-one can win in Iowa this year, not even Mr Harkin. There can only be losers. If Mr Harkin's home state failed to hand him an overwhelming victory, and he needs at least 60 per cent, it would deal a possibly fatal blow to his struggling national effort. Failure by Bob Kerrey, the senator from neighbouring Nebraska, to

engulfed in fresh controversy on Thursday over allegations that he dodged the draft for the Vietnam war.

Those allegations, and his denials, received extensive coverage in all major American newspapers yesterday, and Vice-President Dan Quayle, who faced similar charges himself in 1988, fanned the flames by calling for the same intense scrutiny of Mr Clinton's record that he had endured. Mr Harkin, referring to unproven allegations against Mr Clinton of adultery, said that the last thing the Arkansas governor now was "another story questioning his veracity and character".

Mr Bush's plan for reforming America's health care system, unveiled on Thursday, touched off an intense and long-overdue debate on this honest of electoral issues, with a deep ideological divide opening up between Democrats favouring some form of national insurance and Republicans supporting a private market-driven system.

The Democratic presidential hopefuls excoriated the Bush plan. Mr Clinton claimed that Mr Bush wanted to fix the election, not the health care system. Mr Kerrey called it "medical Darwinism, the survival of the fittest". The only real consensus was that in an election year neither Mr Bush nor members of Congress would dare tackle the real nub of the debate — how to finance a better system without raising taxes or cutting existing benefits.

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## Webbed feet

Sydney: An Australian office worker survived being bitten by a deadly funnel-web spider after he had walked around for more than three hours with it in his shoe. Doctors said the cramped spider could not unleash its full dose of poison. (Reuters)

# Liberals act to counter fascist rise in Russia

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW's streets will echo this weekend to the sound of chanting demonstrators for the first time since the August coup, as pro-Western reformers and orthodox communists compete in an atmosphere of political ferment.

Yelena Bonner, Andrei Sakharov's widow, and a host of distinguished liberals have lent their support to a rally at the White House, the parliament that last summer became a symbol of Russian democracy. Organisers hope

that at least 70,000 members of Moscow's "middle class in waiting" — those well-educated and Western-oriented people whose peaceful protests helped oust the Communist party — will turn out to denounce the re-emerging spectre of totalitarianism.

The rally will hear warnings about the "red-brown" menace: the prospect of an unholy alliance between old-style communists and Russian nationalists, cemented by nostalgia for authoritarianism and suspicion of all things Western and Jewish. Liberals acted after communists threatened a "march on the White House" in protest against the break-up of the Soviet Union and the hardship brought by economic reform. The Russian Communist Workers' Party has since been told by the city council to switch the venue of its demonstration to Manezh Square, outside the Kremlin.

Both the rallies will hear denunciations of Russia's new elite — figures from the communist establishment who, in the name of "privatisation", are carving out lucrative positions in Moscow's new stock and commodity markets. The communists want "direct control by working people" of "hard currency ... obtained by the financial plundering of state enterprises". The liberals want the "former communist *nomenklatura* capitalists" to be replaced, with a more level economic playing field open to foreign and Russian players.

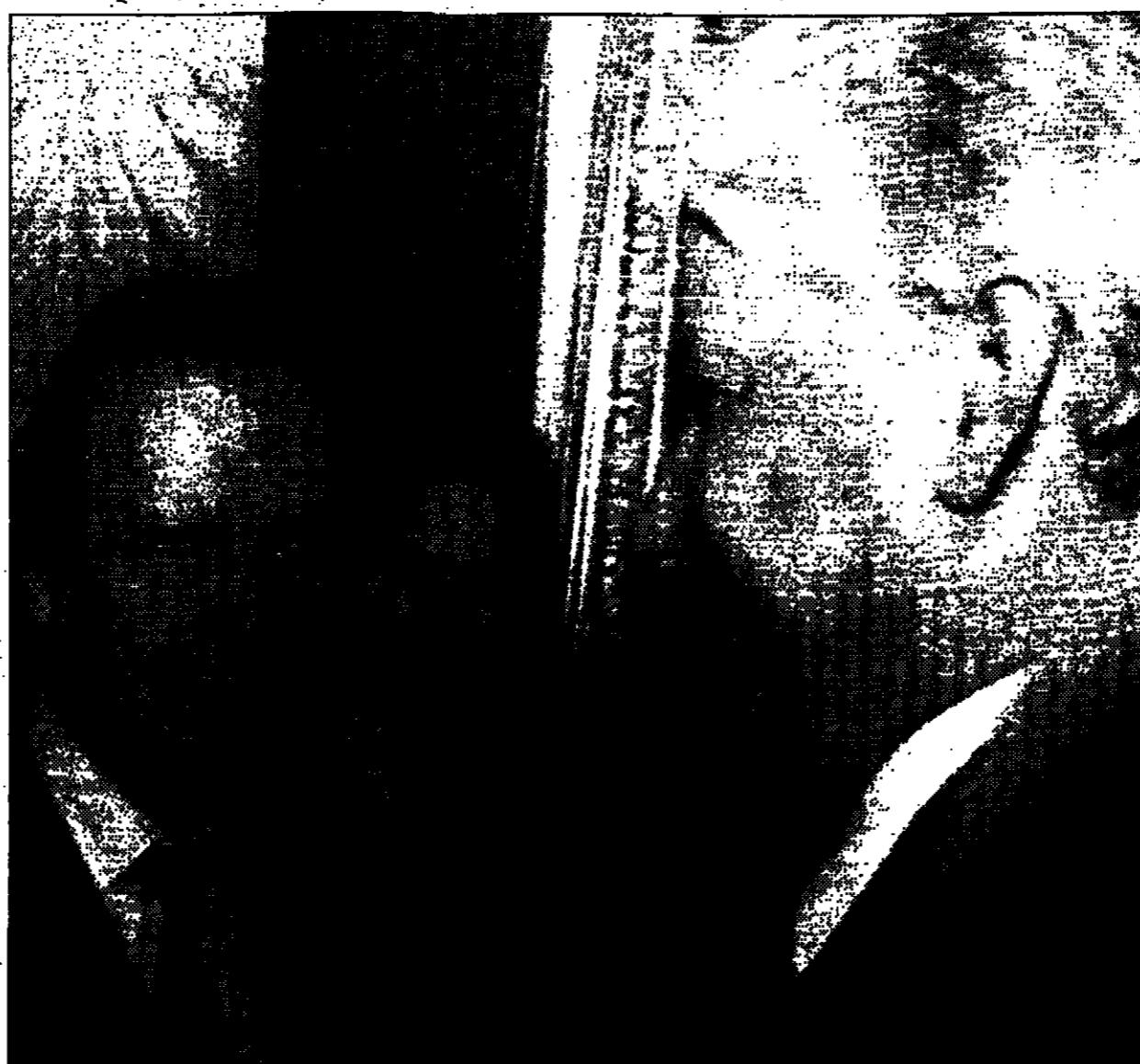
They argue that without transparent, rapid procedures for privatisation, wildcat seizures by opportunist bureaucrats are more likely. Activists such as Vladimir Bokser, a doctor and mastermind of Moscow's middle-class protest movement, think that of the two parts of the "red-brown" menace, the "brown" or neo-fascist one is more dangerous.

A congress of "patriotic forces" is expected to be addressed by Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president of Russia, and other Yeltsinites who have recently donned moderate nationalist colours. The congress will demand a tough line against Ukraine, which yesterday rejected calls by Russia's parliament for the Black Sea Fleet to remain united under the Commonwealth of Independent States. Delegates will also call on Russia to pursue its own economic interests in dealing with other republics.

On Thursday, President Tudjman of Croatia sent a letter to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, unconditionally accepting the plan, which could lead to the deployment of a 10,000-strong peacekeeping force in the Serb-controlled territories of Croatia. According to Mr Vance, this has left Mr Bokser and his government at the last obstacle. The UN Security Council was voting yesterday on a resolution declaring that no peacekeeping force would be sent without the agreement of Mr Bokser's government.

The Krajina problem is expected to come to a head on Monday when its parliament gathers to discuss the UN plan and Mr Bokser's referendum proposal. He said that, considering his government's bitter opposition to the existing UN plan, it would now be amoral for it to accept it without consulting the people.

Last Monday, after a grueling 40-hour session involving Krajina leaders and representatives of the old Yugoslav federal presidency and the Serbian government, Mr Bokser complained that he



Noble gesture: President Yeltsin greeting Prince Vladimir Kirillovich Romanov, heir to the tsarist throne, in Paris at the residence of the Russian ambassador. A high point of Mr Yeltsin's state visit to France was the reception he hosted for descendants of the aristocrats who fled to France after the 1917 Bolshevik revolution

(Philip Jacobson writes). Mr Yeltsin apologised for the manner in which their families were treated by communism and said those who fled were Russia's "moral and intellectual elite". The Russian parliament would study the possibility of granting dual citizenship to the descendants of exiles. Yesterday, on the eve of his re-

turn to Moscow, Mr Yeltsin paid a handsome tribute to Mikhail Gorbachev, expressing warm appreciation of his "honourable" behaviour since he was forced from power. Earlier President Mitterrand and Mr Yeltsin signed a treaty, while aides finalised agreements on French economic and technical assistance to Russia.



## Pressure on Baku leader grows

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN  
IN BAKU

PRESSURE is increasing on the government of President Mutalibov of Azerbaijan as the death toll from fighting in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh mounts.

In the past two days, a stormy meeting of Azerbaijan's national council — a 50-member body elected by parliament — has seen strong attacks on the administration. Members of the opposition Popular Front claim that President Mutalibov's failure to develop a national army with properly trained men and a unified general staff has led to unnecessary casualties.

In a square in Baku, the capital, demonstrators accused the president, formerly the Communist ruler of the former Soviet republic, of being in the pay of the Armenians and a dupe of Moscow. But the strongest Azerbaijani criticism is directed against international proposals for a United Nations peacekeeping forces in the enclave, which lies in Armenia. Opposition deputies say President Mutalibov has already accepted this proposal.

For their part, government representatives deny they have accepted the peacekeeping plan, but a foreign ministry official said that Azerbaijan would be willing to accept UN observers and experts as long as they came through Baku and with the permission of the authorities there. Both sides resent the notion of outside interference.

• Nicosia: The Iranian government said yesterday that it wanted the fighting between Armenia and Azerbaijan ended because the conflict could encourage big power intervention on its borders. A statement pledged that Iran would do all it could to restore peace in the area before "dominationist powers" intervened.



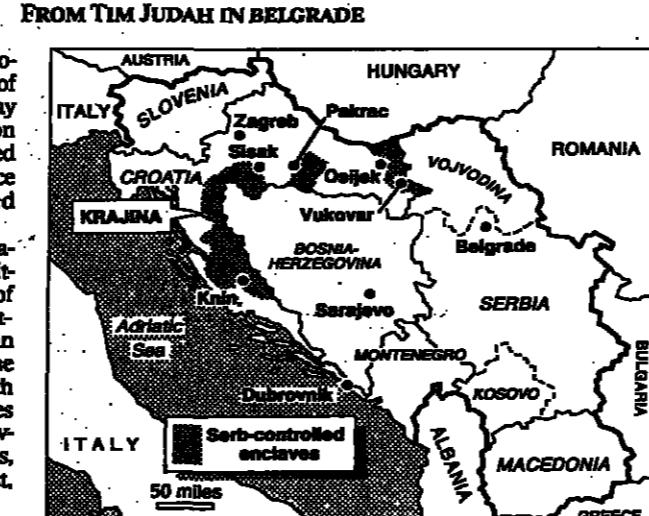
Bonner: supporting rally by reformers



Despite the intricate treaty compromises reached in December backstage bickering continues, George Brock writes from Maastricht

represented by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Francis Maude, the Euro-sceptical financial secretary to the Treasury. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who does not enjoy EC gatherings, must have been relieved to be otherwise engaged.

The agreement on European monetary union commits an unknown number of countries to start using a single currency by the beginning of 1999 at the latest. Membership of the select group will be decided by which economies meet strict tests: at the moment only three countries do so. The German Bundesbank yesterday made clear its disapproval of the timetable which Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, agreed at



## Babic seeks referendum on UN forces in Krajina

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

MILAN Babic, leader of Croatia's rebel Serb enclave of Krajina, proposed yesterday that a referendum be held on the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the self-proclaimed republic.

His proposal came as Krajina was plunged into political turmoil, with the heads of many local authorities accepting the peacekeeping plan brokered by Cyrus Vance, the UN special envoy, but with Mr Babic and his colleagues still opposing it. Milan Ivanić, one of his close aides, said: "We want changes first, then we'll accept it."

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Asked yesterday what he would do if the people of Krajina opted for the plan, Mr Babic said: "I shall follow the decision of the parliament and people." But he added: "I

cannot function against my own convictions."

Danko Peric, the editor of Knin radio, said that, at a meeting of 17 local authority heads in Knin, the Krajina capital, yesterday, only Knin itself was still opposed to the plan. "They will accept it on Monday," he said.

The local authority heads accompanied Mr Babic to the Belgrade talks last week. According to him, they were frequently taken aside and subjected to individual pressure to accept the UN plan. Yesterday he said: "After the referendum the pressure will diminish and nobody will say that it is personal politics anymore."

• Titograd: Momir Bulatovic, president of the mountainous republic of Montenegro, says he wants to build a new Yugoslavia with his Serbian allies but will resign if his countrymen opt for independence. "We are interested in being with Serbia in one country and we think the interest of the people of Montenegro is to continue living in a common state," he said. (Reuters)

# Maastricht 'monster' is signed into being

COMPARED with the diplomatic exertions and media hullabaloo of the European Community's summit here in December, yesterday's ceremonial signing of the Maastricht treaty was a gentle affair. Foreign and finance ministers from each of the 12 EC states committed themselves to a journey into the uncharted waters of Europe's future.

Maastricht's citizens, in common with most Europeans, thought the treaty had been completed in December by the Community leaders and they looked thoroughly bemused by the sudden reappearance of the summiteers. However, the ministers' signatures are needed before the 12 national parliaments and the European parliament can begin to ratify the agreement.

The last EC treaty, the 1985 Single European Act, was signed for Britain by Lynda Chalker, then a junior minister in the Foreign Office. Britain was yesterday

represented by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and Francis Maude, the Euro-sceptical financial secretary to the Treasury. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who does not enjoy EC gatherings, must have been relieved to be otherwise engaged.

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unit. The French insisted on Ecu (éta) as the name of one of their own 13th-century gold coins) symbolising future French leverage over the Bundesbank. A fudge was inevitable: different language versions of the treaty now vary the word: English and German have ECU, while the French and Dutch have Ecu.

The intricate compromises reached at Maastricht in December let all the community leaders go home with something to be happy about. The town of Maastricht gives its name to the most ambitious revision of the Treaty of Rome ever attempted, but the treaty, which includes 17 protocols and 33 declarations, is also the most flexible and unpredictable constitutional document ever agreed.

Doubts about the ability of the Maastricht document to survive unaltered until the scheduled review date in 1996 have surfaced quickly. Can these provisions possibly cope with the expansion

of the Community to include both Scandinavian and east European members? Social Democrats in the German Bundestag have threatened to block ratification of the treaty — which the 12 national parliaments are supposed to have achieved by the end of the year — unless the European parliament is given greater powers than those already assigned.

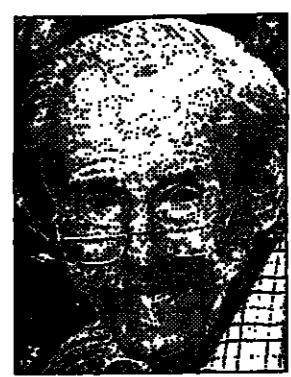
Federalists are especially disgruntled. They are fed up with Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch prime minister, for allowing John Major to stay out of the Social Chapter. They have also been firing poisoned arrows at Pierre de Boissieu, France's chief negotiator at the treaty talks, who dreamt up the "three-pillared" structure that keeps future co-operation on foreign, defence and legal policy outside the EC machinery. The treaty is, according to one jaundiced Italian commentator writing yesterday, a "legal and political monster".

## Kaunda lives on family support

Kenneth Kaunda, the former Zambian president, is broke, according to the *Zambia Daily Mail*. It said that Dr Kaunda, aged 67, is living in a rented home paid for by one of his sons. He told the newspaper that the government of President Chiluba had not paid him any retirement benefits and he described himself as "financially very unstable".

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, intends to visit Japan in April to seek help for the Moscow-based research group which he has run since leaving office in December.

The 1992 United Nations population prize has been awarded to Jamshedji Tata, aged 87, the Indian industrialist and family planning pioneer. The award was established in 1981 for achievements in the field of world population. Mr Tata, aged 87, is to receive \$12,500 (£6,900).



Jack Mann, above, the former British hostage in Lebanon, returned to his home in Nicosia yesterday after nearly a month in hospital where he was treated for pneumonia. Looking frail, but in obvious high spirits, Mr Mann, aged 77, said that he was "looking forward to getting back to my own place".

Ronald Reagan, the former American president, celebrated his 81st birthday with a surprise party at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Los Angeles. About 150 people, many of them schoolchildren, were in the library when Mr Reagan walked through the lobby to a cake bearing an American flag and the words "Happy Birthday Mr President".

## Aids-like epidemic ravages dolphins

FROM CHRIS ELIOU IN ATHENS

SWIMMERS at Anavissos, near Athens, were distressed to witness a pair of dolphins apparently committing suicide. They saw one thrashing in its death throes on the beach. Soon after its mate began dashing its head against jagged rocks, until it died.

A few days after the incident, in early December, the phenomenon was repeated in other parts of Greece. Environmental researchers have since established that an Aids-like virus is responsible for the deaths of more than 300 marine mammals, including small whales.

The researchers now fear that the deadly virus, which strikes the immune

system in the same way that the HIV virus attacks people, might be spreading to other sea creatures.

Kathy Siakavara, an official of the Athens branch of Greenpeace, said that post-mortem examinations had shown extensive damage to brain tissue. Other tests revealed severe liver damage, apparently caused by the virus and toxic wastes in the heavily polluted eastern end of the Mediterranean.

She said that nothing was definite yet. But there were strong indications to believe that the virus was of the measles type, and samples of it had been sent to The Netherlands for tests.

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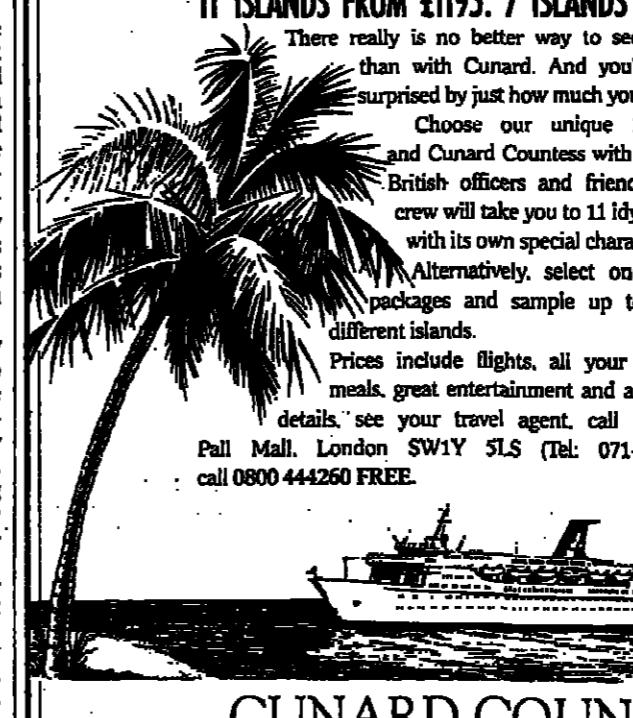
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## Clifford Longley

### Annulment is badly handled within the Catholic Church

The King's Matter was not really about divorce but about annulment. Henry VIII did not say that he should not have married Katherine, but that he had not married her, whatever the legal formalities said to the contrary. So the marriage never existed at all, and Anne of Cleves, not Katherine of Aragon, was truly his first wife. If he had not then scuttled his way through a veritable harem, history might even have believed he meant it.

It is difficult to make sense of the logic of his "divorce" without adopting a metaphysical view of a marriage as something that exists as an independent entity — or did not exist, according to Henry's petition against Katherine. The medi-evals thought there was a real but invisible bond between husband and wife, something with an objective reality apart from what they felt about it or even what the law said about it. Whether Henry was married to Katherine was a fact, like a scientific fact, waiting to be discovered; and one cannot make a scientific fact untrue simply by denying it or passing a law to say so. A decree of annulment is not supposed to make a marriage null, but to describe what is already the case.

This remains the theory of marriage used in the Roman Catholic Church, where annulment cases are being heard at the rate of something like two thousand a year in England and Wales. The church does not recognise divorce (nor does English law recognise Roman Catholic annulments), yet curiously, the church tribunals refuse to entertain a case until a civil divorce has been obtained in the English courts. But the level of satisfaction among those who resort to this remedy for marriage breakdown may be no better than Henry's. It is a system needing reform.

Recently *The Tablet* publicised the grievances of one dissatisfied customer of the English Roman Catholic marriage tribunals, and this has drawn letters from others. It has also published a response from a canon lawyer who practises in the tribunals. Clearly the intention of the lawyers is sympathetic and compassionate. None the less their effect is secretive and frustrating. Above all, the tribunals have little time for the principle that justice must be seen to be done. The consistent complaint seems to be that people are offered neither information nor explanation as their case goes through the works. At the end they are bewildered and alienated, hardly able to tell whether they have had justice or not.

A highly detrimental comparison can be made with secular courts, where lawyers are expected to keep clients in the picture and to act only on instructions. In church annulments the canon lawyers have taken over the initiative completely, or so the client is wont to feel. And the lawyers are all priests, so the deference due to an expert is compounded by the deference due to the priesthood. But deference is no bar to resentment.

The flaws in the church annulment process are nowadays of this kind rather than the more infamous abuses of the past, when annulments seemed to go mostly to the rich, titled and privileged. Today's tribunals make no charge to those who cannot pay. Only the few cases which have to be referred to Rome are subject to long delay. And the theory behind annulment has acquired a respectable basis in the contemporary psychiatric understanding of marriage, such as the research of Dr Jack Dominicino into marriage breakdown.

The psychodynamics of a "valid" marriage turn out to be so different from those of an "invalid" one that the tribunals now routinely accept psychiatric reports as evidence. Above all, the tribunals have recognised that the capacity to make a lifelong commitment demands a degree of maturity not every person possesses. So some "marriages" which fail never stood a chance: were never, so to speak, marriages at all. The tribunals, if satisfied that this is the case, will declare such a marriage a nullity. There are lessons of wider application here.

But the canon lawyers must look to their procedures if they want to regain the confidence of the people they serve. English Catholics will not happily accept a lower quality of justice from their own church courts than they are used to in the civil courts. Indeed church courts should be striving to do even better.

Roman Catholics make up 10 per cent of the population, and so probably nearly 10 per cent of the total 150,000 divorces a year. With only two thousand annulments a year being considered, it is clear that many ignore the church's tribunals. Nor do those who attend tribunals sound content. That is hardly a vote of confidence.

As Maigret returns to the screen, H.R.F. Keating explores what makes a detective great

A detective hero perhaps second only to Sherlock Holmes for looming presence is about to occupy our television screens once more. Maigret will come to us not in the guise of Rupert Davies, whose wall match-scratching and sucking pipe-lighting must live in the memory of almost everyone of viewing age in the 1960s, but in that of the excellent actor Michael Gambon.

Like Sherlock Holmes, Maigret is much more than the protagonist of a number of well-told tales. He is one of the Great Detectives, a figure not to be confused with the huge mass of fictional sleuths who have provided easy entertainment for readers by the million. No, here we are speaking of nothing less than a powerful myth.

Edgar Allan Poe, seeking a hero worthy of the Romantic movement, was the originator of this myth-mighty figure. In the pages of "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" he laid down the pattern for an investigator of mysteries, using much the same language as Coleridge had employed 25 years earlier to describe the ideal poet — the creator capable of rising above

fancy to the high reaches of imagination. Poe saw his detective as one capable of throwing himself into the spirit of an opponent, "identifying himself therewith".

The great characteristic of Maigret as a detective is not the employment of scientific method or of the two-fisted approach of the American private eye. It is his ability to puzzle away at the outward features of a murder until he can understand the essence of the murderer. The things that puzzle him are not how the poison got into the teacup or how the weapon was spirited out of the hermetically sealed chamber. He is puzzled by nothing less than the souls of human beings.

Simenon's stories have few of the ingredients generally thought of as making for a huge readership. There is not much action or clever investigation. Most of the time Maigret simply moans. But his moaning is the Great Detective at work, and

this, though they may not realise it, is what appeals to readers. It also lay behind the huge success of Sherlock Holmes, a success that spawned all those copycat detectives. But the authors of all but a few of those books failed to see what Edgar Allan Poe had discovered.

They thought that the mere solution of an ingeniously concealed murder was what attracted the reader. It was not. It was the hint of an answer to a much greater mystery, the mystery of what other people are that made them read and read.

Maigret bears all the hallmarks of the Great Detective, even down to the characteristic way of arriving at the solution to an apparently insoluble mystery in a trance, in which the rational and the intuitive are combined

in a fusing flash of the imagination. Sherlock Holmes is notorious for the "trance hours spent in a miasma of tobacco smoke before pronouncing judgment".

Maigret, too, is a formidable pipe-smoker, but he has other forms of trance as well. On one occasion, in "The Crime of Catherine", he soves his mystery by means of a ferocious headcold. In bed, smothered under "a mass of sheets and blankets", the air pungent with the aroma of eucalyptus, he lies for hours, emerging at last with the answer.

Maigret, too, came to know what a truly weighty figure he was, though he seldom allowed the knowledge to appear, certainly not to his fellow flics. In "Maigret's First Case" (not of

course, the first Maigret novel) he thinks that what he would really like to have been was "a repainer of destinies", a sort of doctor for souls. And in "Maigret and the Headless Corpse", he claims his ideal vocation, about which he had never told anyone, would be to become "a guide to the lost".

But at the start it was Simenon's astonishing empathy for human beings of all sorts and conditions which enabled him to throw himself into the spirit of such Great Detectives as his chance reading — and he was a prodigious reader — had led him to. And we can be sure he had at some time made the acquaintance of the immensely popular Sherlock Holmes.

That empathy is the quality shared to the full by Maigret and his creator. Maigret is, indeed, the detective as writer, the man who wants to understand. In leading us through the pages of an absorbing story eventually to comprehend the often incomprehensible — murderers, the obsessed, the utterly weak — Simenon, through Maigret, enlarges our understanding of the other. He makes us know those people out there who seem to behave in ways altogether contrary to our own. This is what all the Great Detectives do. They attempt to solve the mystery of the human personality.

H.R.F. Keating is president of the Detection Club. Maigret begins tomorrow, 8.45pm on ITV

# A sleuth in a million



Rupert Davies: the 1960s Maigret

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# When corruption reigned

### Elections today look tame beside the violence of 18th-century campaigns, says Jonathan Clark

Paddy Ashdown's affair, Neil Kinnock's Russian contacts — for want of ideological drama, 1992 is being hailed as the election of sieze and smear. But is British politics really getting worse? Are we set on copying yet more fashions from America? Does it matter?

Modern Englishmen are given to prim disapproval at the sight of American democracy in action: the dominance of trivial local issues over important national ones, the swamping of idealism by self-interest, the razzmatazz, the horse trading, the enormous sums of money openly changing hands. Yet all these things mirror the practices of 18th-century England, the United States' parent culture.

In many ways, American practices have been revolutionised but not reformed. The trauma of revolution in 1776 froze certain things at a point in their history, like the shadows of atom-bomb victims imprinted in an instant onto a wall in Hiroshima.

English political satire is held currently to reach heights of invective never before known: *That Was The Week That Was* in the early 1960s, satirical television is supposed to have swayed governments. Yet within their technological limits, 18th-century publicists did just as well. Cartoonists made explicit allegations of financial gerrymandering and rammed home the lesson with savage and scatological imagery. The path to royal favour was shown to be, literally, by kissing Walpole's posterior.

In 1753 the repeal of the enlightened Jewish Naturalisation Act was forced by a blatant manipulation of anti-Semitism. When Lord Bute's rise to power at Leicester House and influence

over the future George III was ascribed to an adulterous relationship, cartoonists showed Princess Augusta holding out a bosome to receive Bute's highly stylised broomstick.

Hostile satire and subversive argument were intensely feared by governments desperately insecure in their titles to power. The bloody repression of the Jacobite press under the first two Georges was the most melodramatic example of this. In 1719 the ministry was ruthless enough to execute 18-year-old John Matthews for publishing the Jacobite pamphlet *Vox Populi Vox Dei*. So terrified was the Whig regime that in 1737 the Licensing Act subjected the stage for the first time to official censorship in advance of performances. Political survival, not public decency, was the goal.

Not did matters quickly improve. In 1788 the future George IV's illegal marriage to Mrs Fitzherbert was publicised in a Gillray print which claimed to depict a bedroom scene on "The Morning after Marriage". In 1798, after the Irish rebellion, Gillray starkly accused the Whig leaders Fox, Sheridan, Erskine and Norfolk of lying in testifying to the good character of the traitor Arthur O'Connor at his trial — testimony which secured his acquittal (though he later confessed his guilt).

Innuendos and, finally, real information about certain politicians' and trade unionists' contacts with Moscow pale into insignificance beside the widespread involvement of early 18th-century Englishmen in Jacobite conspiracies aimed at armed revolution.

The Stuarts at St Germaine or Rome were better at keeping secrets than the KGB, but



A lunatic is taken to cast his vote in 1754, a detail from Hogarth's "The Polling".

rumours sometimes leaked out. William Pitt, later Earl of Chatham, was convinced that his Oxford contemporary William Murray (later Earl of Mansfield and father of English commercial law) had been implicated in treason, and in the 1750s Pitt's innuendo forced his rival out of the House of Commons, but he could not prove it.

The evidence was there in the

Stuart archives nevertheless. In Paris during the summer vacation of his second year at Christ Church, Murray had written to the Old Pretender's secretary with a gift of money for the cause and a promise of allegiance. "The chief end I would propose from my studies and education, and the greatest glory I can aim at, is to be able to serve His Majesty James III in any way that he pleases to command me." This letter ticked away beneath his career like a timebomb. He was not alone.

The hustings were still worse.

Dr Johnson called the general election a "saturnian season".

With electoral registers not introduced until 1832 and no

secret ballot until 1872, the

whole cycle of canvassing, enter-

taining, establishing, tiring and

sustains it.

Hanoverian Englishmen de-

veloped a wry affection for the electoral machinery, despite (or perhaps because of) its warts.

Perhaps the appetite of today's

public for a good smear or a

juicy scandal is still the biggest

barrier to parliamentary reform.

If so, this may be cause for

confidence.

in the 18th century, peti-

tions against corrupt re-

tains were heard and

decided by the Commons

itself, voting on flagrantly parti-

san lines: Whig majorities would

unseat Tory MPs on Whig

petitions and vice versa. Political

management became steadily

more effective: by 1800 the price

of a borough seat, to an outsider,

might be £5,000 (at a time when an artisan's annual income might be £50), and even the

political classes felt the strain.

Yet this steadily increasing

investment in seats and relish

for satire meant also an increasing

commitment to parliamentary

government. Men would

not have paid so much to buy

their way into a House of

Commons that was ineffective or

irrelevant. As the historian Sir

Lewis Namier pointed out, no

man bribes where he can't bully.

Paradoxically, the corruption of a system can also be an index to the freedom of the society which

sustains it.

Hanoverian Englishmen de-

veloped a wry affection for the

electoral machinery, despite (or

perhaps because of) its warts.

Perhaps the appetite of today's

public for a good smear or a

juicy scandal is still the biggest

barrier to parliamentary reform.

If so, this may be cause for

confidence.

Many footballers dream of playing at Old Trafford, so not sur-

prisingly, team captain and Tory

MP Alastair Burt for once had a

full squad to choose from. Indeed

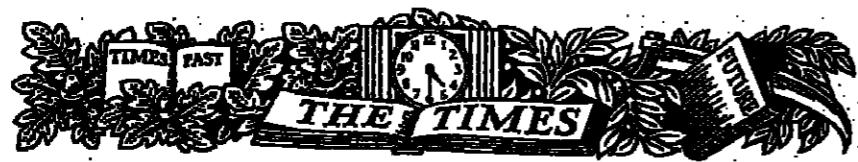
with an election looming, so many

MPs fancied pulling on their boots

in front of a huge crowd that Burt

could have put out two teams.

Unfortunately, Alex Ferguson,



## SEX APPEAL

Should the law protect public figures such as Paddy Ashdown from the publication of unsavoury stories about them? The answer is no. Should the law censor tasteless or pornographic material in newspapers or television? No. Should the law ban political bias or unfair reporting, blasphemy or the offending of minorities? Again, no.

Laws have been attempted abroad on all these matters. They do not work. Both the Younger and the Calcott committees opposed privacy laws to control the media. They did so not out of any respect for the dignity of the press or freedom of speech, but because they felt privacy laws were impracticable and unenforceable. They said so although presented with a mountain of self-righteousness and hypocrisy: of gross intrusion justified as "press freedom", of pornography described as "integral to the telling of the story", of salaciousness parading as "fearless court reporting".

Those outside the press need not sneer. Sexuality remains the most potent of all sales techniques. Advertisers use it. Publishers who turn over the *Mirror* and *Sun* tell their authors to put in more "good bits" and select lascivious covers to sell their books. Film makers insert and then publicise gratuitous sex and violence to help promotion. A clearly desperate Leeds ballet company is promoting a sexually explicit Swan Lake. The BBC recently conjured a ludicrous nude scene into *A Time to Dance* to generate "event publicity". As journalists cloak their voyeurism in "press freedom", so others cloak theirs in "artistic freedom", in "exploring the nature of modern sexuality". Both know their real cloak is a dirty mackintosh.

Sex is the most intimate form of human behaviour and thus the one most open to voyeuristic exploitation. Many people deeply resent the sense of intrusion when forced into such voyeurism against their will. The response of the authoritarian liberal is simply to say: "tough on them. Just as public figures can choose not to enter the heat of the kitchen, so the private person can throw away the newspaper, reject the book or turn off the television. Freedom of speech is the freedom to cause offence. Such intolerance in the name of tolerance is usually highly partial: it excuses sexual and verbal obscenity but not religious or racial offence.

The right to shock at will is not one that society has ever recognised, if only in the interests of public order. Again this, artists, writers and journalists have felt some obligation to push out the boundaries of awareness of investigation, of experience. They seek to reveal man's inhumanity to man just as they wish to alert society to its own glories and failures. Shock is one such technique. Yet there soon may come a time when *cherchez la femme* goes one fornication too far; when the nation replies to media excuses with a loud sarcastic laugh. Then the nation's elected representatives may turn the laughter to anger and anger to action. Legislation, censorship and control would follow. Such laws would have to extend beyond the press to broadcasting and the arts and even contemporary history. They would be clumsy and unfree. The only way of averting them is self-restraint on the part of all concerned.

In the past month, most news organisations have genuinely agonised over how to handle an extraordinary series of news stories. From the Anita Hills, Kennedy Smith and Bill Clinton sagas in America to those of Robert Maxwell and Paddy Ashdown in Britain, newspapers have had to judge, within the laws of libel and contempt,

## WEIMAR RUSSIA

"I can already feel the breath on our necks of those who wear the black and the brown shirts," Boris Yeltsin said in Paris. The spectre of Weimar is haunting Russia. Civil order is breaking down. Inflation races inexorably ahead. Crime is rising and the black market dominates daily life. Anti-semitism is on the rise and anyone making money is denounced as a criminal and exploiter of poverty. Parliamentarians impotently argue out their frustrations, ministers bicker among themselves, and the communist old guard, bitter at being "stabbed in the back" — the *Dolchstoss* of Nazi mythology — foments unrest and plans its revenge. All the ingredients for a fascist coup are in place.

President Yeltsin would be its first victim. His government would be swept away, the hated price rises cancelled, the freedom of the press and newly won democratic rights suspended, liberals arrested and the entire reform process of the past six years thrown hard into reverse. It is the worst scenario that Nato and the West can imagine. That is why President Yeltsin speaks out so often and in such apocalyptic terms. He is attempting the same blackmail as President Gorbachev: unless the West comes to his aid immediately and massively, he will be overthrown by the forces of darkness.

He is exaggerating. A military coup still looks unlikely. Fascism is not an organised political force in Russia. President Yeltsin still retains broad support and popularity. But his warnings must be taken seriously. A dangerous coalition of the disaffected is waiting for a strong leader with a unifying ideology. Even the liberal intelligentsia is being swayed by the appeal of Russian nationalism.

The biggest danger is that Mr Yeltsin rules in a political vacuum. Reformers in Russia have never managed to create a political vehicle, like Solidarity in Poland, for their reforms. The movement known as Democratic Russia was an attempt before the abortive August coup, to set up a cohesive opposition to the communists. Even experienced liberals such as Eduard Shevardnadze, the former foreign minister, realised that it would not work. After 70 years of totalitarianism, Russians have a rudimentary understanding of multi-party democracy but no culture of political compromise to enable a government to tackle the challenges facing it.

Mr Yeltsin has no way of enforcing his reforms. The proscription of the communist party was tantamount to abolishing the entire civil service. Local administrators have

how much their readers really want to know, and how far the boundaries of privacy and public taste should be pushed.

Newspapers are "bad taste" institutions as they are bad news ones. But they still withhold material daily on grounds of taste-intrusive or horrific photographs, explicit court cases, intrusive references to individuals. Newspapers sometimes err, as *The Times* did recently in its presentation of a distressing story from Japan. When selection is made on the spur of the moment and in the heat of the market place, it can go awry.

The Ashdown case has already led the chairman of the Press Complaints Commission to give newspapers a warning on invasion of privacy. He might have added an informal one to broadcasters, who this week rivalled the tabloids in hyping every detail of the Ashdown liaison. *The Times* takes no particular pride in covering a story that it would not have covered had other newspapers not goaded Mr Ashdown and his former girlfriend into public statements. Consistency might have required a blanket self-censorship. But from Monday the news was patently in the public arena and readers would have found total silence extraordinary.

Politicians are reportedly spoiling for confrontation when the Press Complaints Commission's remit comes up for review later this year. Self-regulation is once again at risk. Following the report of the Calcott committee in 1990, the press accepted a code of conduct on privacy. This code was voluntary and was intended to avoid specious ex post facto justifications of the sort much heard in the Ashdown case. While Mr Ashdown might have been seen as fair game, the same could not possibly apply to Patricia Howard (let alone to her predecessor as Mr Ashdown's secretary, who was pursued on her honeymoon). The code of conduct was useless in her defence. Only the most tendentious apologist could claim that last week saw the press in fearless pursuit of an event of great political importance. The media may as well come clean: it was after a salacious scandal and did not mind who got hurt.

The argument against legal restraint of these matters must be restated, albeit with a note of desperation. The basis of any law against vicarious intrusion is that, while it may be offensive, hurtful and tasteless, it is impracticable to seek to make it a definable tort. A statutory enforcement of the code of conduct, as mooted by Calcott, is vulnerable to the same weakness: the terms of the code would have the force of law, requiring precise definition. Intrusion into privacy is ultimately a matter of taste. Matters of taste make bad law, witness those on blasphemy.

But there soon may come a time when *cherchez la femme* goes one fornication too far; when the nation replies to media excuses with a loud sarcastic laugh. Then the nation's elected representatives may turn the laughter to anger and anger to action.

Legislation, censorship and control would follow. Such laws would have to extend beyond the press to broadcasting and the arts and even contemporary history. They would be clumsy and unfree. The only way of averting them is self-restraint on the part of all concerned.

The press are the ultimate ferrets to discover and disclose concealed information. Nothing must suppress this essential (the fourth) freedom. If what is disclosed is not true, then the law of libel is available.

Yours faithfully,  
K. R. ROLLINSON,  
Orchard House, Abingdon,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.  
February 6.

## Press coverage of Ashdown affair

From Mr Timothy Atkinson

Sir, The probable fact that a majority of electors do not consider adultery a relevant factor in deciding how to vote does not mean that there are not others who, quite properly, take a different view. A newspaper is probably entitled, perhaps even under a duty, to put information which it believes to justify an allegation against an elected figure before the public, to an elected figure before the public, to make what they will of it.

It is not, however, the reporting of such revelations in themselves which is of concern to society. What matters is the manner in which the media choose to report such revelations: the risk of hounding a politician from public office simply by virtue of injurious coverage in the sensationalist press cannot be justified.

Newspaper editors should consider the need for amending their code of conduct, so as to encourage properly restrained and responsible reporting of a politician's sexual misdemeanour, and thus to allow voters to decide for themselves its impact on their attitude to the politician in question.

Yours faithfully,  
TIMOTHY ATKINSON,  
1 Brick Court, Temple, EC4.  
February 6.

From Mr K. R. Rollinson

Sir, Your third leader today denigrates Fleet Street's justification of publicity as weasel words. Not so.

Past performance is a factor in assessing future performance. If a candidate (for a job or political post) conceals his past, how can the employer or voter make a proper assessment? With full disclosure, the voter can then decide what he considers relevant. No one should do this for him.

The press are the ultimate ferrets to discover and disclose concealed information. Nothing must suppress this essential (the fourth) freedom. If what is disclosed is not true, then the law of libel is available.

Yours faithfully,  
K. R. ROLLINSON,  
Orchard House, Abingdon,  
Cirencester, Gloucestershire.  
February 6.

From Mrs E. E. Armstrong-James

Sir, I have never voted for Mr Ashdown's party but I am tempted to do so now. We should be asking our candidates how they would administer the country — not how they spend their leisure time.

Yours faithfully,  
ENID E. ARMSTRONG-JAMES,  
Bridge Cottage, The Street,  
Woodton, Bungay, Suffolk.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, If Paddy Ashdown's private life is at variance with his crafted public image then the public have a right to know and make of it what they will. He has no grounds for complaint.

The woman involved, however, has committed no crime and is not in public life. By what right did the press so threaten her that she felt obliged to appear before them for public flagellation?

*The Times* also felt that her face and name should be known to us all. How tactful of you to put the photograph on page 2, but why did you publish it at all?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE THOMAS,  
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.  
February 7.

From Mr R. E. Engel

Sir, It is ironic that Mr Robin Cook was making political capital out of a leaked NHS document (report, February 6) at almost the same time that Mr Ashdown was undergoing his ordeal. I do not accept that there is a difference between publishing confidential information stolen from a solicitor's office or from the files of a ministry.

Yours faithfully,  
R. E. ENGEL,  
The Old Posting House,  
Welford Road,  
Chapel Brampton, Northampton.  
February 6.

## NHS pay and funding

From Mr James Johnson

Sir, I was interested to read your speculative report (January 29) on performance-related pay for hospital doctors. Clinical excellence should clearly be rewarded and this is what the merit award system attempts to do. Managers, however, would seek to give performance-related pay for meeting managerial targets and this is not always the same as clinical excellence.

For example, there may be a managerial target to admit patients with varicose veins who have been on the waiting list for a long time. This in turn might mean a few weeks' delay for cancer patients who have not been on the waiting list for long. The clinically correct decision might be to deal with the cancer patient, for whom a delay of even a few weeks might mean the difference between life and death, but the doctor who chose to treat the non-urgent case would be rewarded by extra pay.

Moreover, I find it scarcely credible that the government would aim to reward junior doctors for working

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046. February 4.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Avoidance of any professional foul

From Mr Brian Grainger

Sir, This society has recently updated its application to the Privy Council for a royal charter, having felt for some time that the "closed shops" (to which you refer (leading article, February 3) are not in the interests of the consumer. A second chartered body in the property profession would be of considerable assistance to our members' clients in Europe and elsewhere.

Our confirmed policy does not restrict membership to graduate entry only. We are very keen to uphold standards, but nevertheless take the view that the GCSE-level entry requirement is not only relevant for the law developer, but also provides opportunities for the early school-leaver to change direction in mid-career.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN GRAINGER  
(Professional services consultant),  
The Incorporated Society of Valuers  
and Auctioneers,  
3 Cadogan Gate, SW1.

From Mr D. J. Fermo

Sir, Not only is there, in my view, no "undesirable protection of professional privilege" for engineers of the sort which you indicate for the other professions; there is even a distinct class feeling that bright young men or women should turn their talents to those other professions.

The best young brains are encouraged to go into medicine, law, the Services, accounting, the City and architecture. Not so in Germany, America, Japan, Sweden, Finland — countries of which I have

recent personal experience. The social status of an engineer in those countries is every bit as high as that of the doctor or barrister.

Yours sincerely,

D. J. FERMO,  
Medlar Cottage, Houghton Road,  
Stockbridge, Hampshire.

February 3.

From Mr J. R. Wilkins

Sir, Your leading article extols competition as a spur to efficiency. It might be of interest to you to know that there are no longer fee scales among chartered building surveyors for professional work. Most work is obtained as a result of competitive fee tendering and, at present, this is exceeding competitive (leading some in the profession to question whether this is best in the long-term interests of the client).

The costs of professional indemnity insurance, even for the smallest of firms, are soaring.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WILKINS  
(Chartered surveyor),  
140 High Street, Tenterden, Kent.

From Mrs Pamela L. Littman

Sir, My husband, who is a chartered accountant, and I, who are a solicitor, have frequent disagreements with regard to his status, I maintaining that accountants are not a professional class.

Yours truly,

PAMELA L. LITTMAN,  
16 Stanhope Gardens,  
Mill Hill, NW7.

February 4.

### Challenges on VAT and tax relief

From the Director of the Conservative Political Centre

Sir, Mr Giles Radice, MP (letter, February 3), cites the Conservative research department's *Campaign Guide 1991* (which I edited) in an attempt to support his assertion that an increase in the rate of value-added tax remains an objective of the Conservative party. Other Labour spokesmen have made similar claims.

The passage in the guide (p.44), which Mr Radice quotes on the switch "to some extent" from taxes on earnings to taxes on spending, follows word for word a commitment given in the 1979 Conservative manifesto and forms part of a list of the party's "key goals" in reforming taxation.

The guide goes on to list the steps that have been taken to achieve those goals. In other words it simply states what has happened: it says nothing about future policy.

What then would Labour do about the shift to indirect taxes since 1979? If, in its judgment, the existing rate of VAT is too high, clear statements are needed about the extent to which it should be cut and the amount by which income tax would have to be increased accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

ALISTAIR B. COOKE,  
Director,  
Conservative Political Centre,  
32 Smith Square,  
Westminster, SW1.

February 3.

From Lord Joseph CH

Sir, In expanding child care, and from the children's point of view, as urged by Fran Bennett and her co-

### The ageing process

From Mr Martin Kay

Sir, Why do different elements of the European Community impose different age requirements upon applicants for jobs of similar professionalism and experience? For example, the European court has specified 42 as the ceiling for administration/translation specialists, whereas the Commission insists on 35.

The sad thing is, as we count down to the qualifying date for unrestricted movement of people, that there continue to be imposed any age limits upon their employment prospects.

Yours faithfully,

MARTIN KAY,  
8 Elm Grove, Swainswick, Avon.

Weekend Money letters, page 24

### Tomorrow's London

From the Director of the London Region of the CBI

Sir, It would be quite wrong to consider that London can be treated as just another local authority (report and leading article, January 30): it plays a national and international role. Surely our memories are not so short that we cannot remember the havoc wrought by local politicians who tried to run our great city?

Local functions should be run by local politicians who represent the interests of their residents. However, residents are not the only people who have a stake in the future of London. Those who work and invest should also be considered.

London's strategic functions should be run by people who have the vision and international management experience to implement strat-

### Monarchy under the microscope

From the Deputy President of the Family Welfare Association

Sir, Recent discussion of the role of the monarchy has paid scant attention to the unique and invaluable support which is given to organisations like ours. Her Majesty is our patron, as she is of many like organisations. Within the constraints of her timetable and commitments she has given unstintingly of her time and support, as have other members of the royal family.



## OBITUARIES

## SIR GARETH CLAYTON

Air Marshal Sir Gareth (Thomas Butler) Clayton, KCB, DFC and bar, a former air secretary and second world war pilot, died on February 5 aged 77. He was born on November 13, 1914.

"TUBBY" Clayton could well have been dubbed the great survivor. He led raid after raid against Hitler's Reich in the last war, crash-landed at least half a dozen times (once while flying through thick fog to his daughter's christening) and was even fired on by his own side while over Dunkirk. Yet Clayton came through it all without a scratch.

He was operational almost as soon as the second world war started, leading a daylight reconnaissance mission over the Ruhr. All three Blenheimis of 107 Squadron from RAF Wartsham got back unscathed. But on the next similar sortie all crews were killed. Clayton's survival was by no means entirely due to luck. In May the next year he won the DFC for leading a heavily defended enemy occupied airfield at Stavanger, Norway. Intercepted by a Messerschmitt-110 on the return flight, Clayton dived to sea level, made use of the cloud cover and dodged the avenging Luftwaffe so successfully that the German eventually gave up and went home, leaving Clayton to return to base, mission accomplished.

Later that year his navigator was severely wounded when Clayton's Blenheim was



riddled by shrapnel after bombing a bridge at Maasricht, in the Netherlands. The fuel tanks spouting out fuel, his wing flaps and undercarriage irreparably jammed, Clayton somehow managed a crash landing on his own airfield. But they had to cut open the cockpit with an axe to lift out the wounded navigator on a stretcher. In January 1941 Clayton switched to being a night fighter pilot with 25 Squadron equipped with Beaufighters. Clayton ruefully wrote later that he managed to write off "three of His Majesty's Beaufighters" without ever seeing a German aircraft.

His most testing time, however, was still to come. This was the period 1943-44 when he found himself assigned to heavy bombers, first with 100 Squadron, then with No 576, a new Lancaster squadron which Clayton, now a wing commander, formed under his command at Elsham Wolds, Lincolnshire. Clayton was clearly sensitive to the destruction they were causing as he took part in the huge waves of allied bombers now nightly filling the skies over Nazi Germany.

In the account which his family is publishing as a posthumous tribute to him he graphically describes the holocaust below: Krefeld "bub-

bling like a volcano" for example; or the seven-hour sorties to Berlin culminating in a 20 minute ordeal as they passed over the packed air defences surrounding the German capital. Clayton's reward was a bar to his DFC with a citation praising his inspirational leadership which had turned 576 Squadron into one of Bomber Command's most effective units.

Yet Gareth Clayton had originally joined the RAF because at the time he could think of nothing better to do. Born at Llandudno into a family which had once owned coal mines in North Wales, he did not go to school until he was nine. His own father was a mining engineer with Rio Tinto and young Gareth spent much of his early life abroad — mainly in Argentina and Spain, where he learned to speak fluent Spanish without an accent.

He returned to this country for schooling, but left Rossall, Lancashire, with nothing more illustrious than the scripture prize. Unable to think of a career he would like to pursue, he started to take private flying lessons to fill his time and then was persuaded by an uncle, himself an RAF officer, to join the service.

His first class Spanish, however, was no fluke. He found he was endowed with a natural gift for languages, eventually adding French, Portuguese and German to his armoury. Perhaps this was why he filled a succession of overseas posts after the war. In 1945 he went to China, to Cheng Tu in a remote area on the Tibetan border, as part of a six-man RAF training team requested by Chiang Kai-shek. He went to the British embassy in Lisbon as air attaché. He commanded RAF Cottesmore, then RAF Honington before going to SHAPE in France to join the plans and policy division.

He was director of RAF transport for overseas operations in the early 1960s, which involved among other things briefing the cabinet during the first Kuwait emergency. He commanded number 11 group in Fighter Command, 1962-63, served as chief of staff in the Second Allied Tactical Airforce, Germany, and was then briefly chief of staff at RAF Strike Command. Between 1966 and 1969 Clayton held the appointment of director of personal services in the RAF before being made an secretary in 1970. He retired two years later.

Gareth Clayton was not entirely safe in peacetime. In the early 1950s while serving on the staff of Bomber Command at High Wycombe he was taken up by a pilot in a Meteor fighter trainer. The pilot unfortunately forgot he was no longer flying a Canberra and got the stalling speed wrong in consequence. The plane crashed on its wing tip in a field. The cockpit broke off from the blazing wreckage and tobogganed across the field to land upside down in a hedge. Clayton, however, once more climbed out more or less unharmed.

Although he walked with the help of a stick, his hip injury was sustained in peace-time Germany, trying to outskate youth half his age on a frozen pond. The injury which landed him in hospital did not prevent him from flying Lightnings up to the end of his RAF career.

Gareth Clayton married Marian Keates in 1938. An icing sugar model of his first aircraft, a Hind biplane, adorned their wedding cake. His wife died, however, 18 months ago and he is survived by their three daughters.

Laura May Kendal, actress and mother of two daughters, Felicity and Jennifer, who followed in her footsteps, died on February 5 aged 83. She was born on May 8, 1908.

IN ADDITION to rearing her two actress daughters — Jennifer, who died in 1984, and Felicity Kendal — Laura Kendal had a pivotal role in the Shakespearean touring company she and her husband, Geoffrey, ran in India and which was immortalised in the film *Shakespeare Wallah*. As well as being the company's leading actress, she designed the sets and costumes, making extraordinarily effective use of limited resources. She also had to be mother not only to her daughters, both of whom served their acting apprenticeships in the company — but also to the young and often inexperienced company members.

During a wartime ENSA tour the Kendals fell in love with India and remained a year after the war with their own company. The tour was cut short by the struggles of India's independence. But in 1953 the Kendals and Shakespeareans were back and the company did not disband until the 1950s. Thereafter Geoffrey and Laura continued to tour with two-handers shows. As late as 1965 they were a main attraction at a theatre festival in Bombay.

The company took Shakespeare to the Indian hills in the way that Sybil Thorndike and Lewis Casson took Macbeth to the Welsh valleys, bringing the English classics to two generations of Indians. While Geoffrey drummed up the bookings in schools throughout India, she made sure the company arrived at each destination looking immaculate, despite having sometimes travelled Indian rail, third-class.

With dusty bunches rather than couches, broken lights and inadequate fans, train conditions were likely to have arrested the enthusiasm of all but the most determined western travellers. The venues were often many miles from the railway station, entailing a further journey with the wardrobe baskets and portable props, by country bus or lorry. The charge for admission was one rupee (about 8p) and it was sufficient to sustain the cost of a 12-strong company. They depended for their audiences mostly on undergraduates and discovered that Indians had an insatiable appetite for Shakespeare.

The novelty of a band of Europeans appearing with wigs and swords in areas where previously the only Englishmen seen were tax collectors and police superintendents may have accounted for some of their success. But Shakespeare was the main attraction. Tamils, Madrasis, Bengalis and Punjabis, who were first introduced to the plays as a subject to be mastered before passing the Senior Cambridge examination — a necessary scholastic

## LAURA KENDAL



achievement for a government clerkship — yielded happily to Shakespeare when it was brought to their town by such an adventurous English company.

Born and brought up in the Lake District, as was Geoffrey, the young Laura Liddell was already a well regarded actress in the Edward Dunstan touring company when the future couple met. In his autobiography, *The Shakespeare Wallah*, Geoffrey describes the first time he saw her at a rehearsal: "She had a pointed chin and a round face, deep brown slanting eyes and a rounisse nose that made her look almost oriental, and an air of enormous vitality...Never had I seen a more lively woman, or a more interesting actress. Laura was incredibly individual and made every part she played intriguing..."

## CHRISTOPHER SKELTON

Christopher Skelton, printer, typographer and publisher, died on February 1 aged 66. He was born on September 3, 1925.

THOUGH a skilled printer and designer, Christopher Skelton's period of greatest creativity had full reign only from the time of his foundation of Skelton's Press in 1968.

Educated at Bablake School, Coventry, he took a degree in English at Oxford. Skelton sought to carry on a family tradition: his uncle was Eric Gill, the wood engraver, type designer and printer. Skelton went to learn to print from Gill's son-in-law, René Hague. He worked for the next 17 years in the Midlands and engaged in the commercial jobbing work which can be so profitable, and often so very dull. He had, indeed, to buy himself a small treadle-plate press for use in the cellar at home in order, he said, "to save his soul". When the firm he was working for was bought up, he decided to use money that he had inherited from an aunt to found Skelton's Press. Fifteen years later he sold it and went into partnership with his former assistant, Alan Bultitude, to print, without other staff, a new edition of *The Sceptre and the Enthroned*.

At both the Skelton's Press and at September they were able to lead double life, printing pork pie labels on the one hand, fine books on the other. Two calligraphic books by David Kindersley



appeared in the early years. *The Death of Hector*, René Hague's version of a text from the *Iliad*, followed. This was elegantly set in Dante typeface, with drawings by Peter Cockerell, reproduced by offset. He printed the catalogues for Christopher Hewett's Tararaman Gallery, London, which were designed to a

particularly high standard, poetry for the Sceptre and Enthroned Presses, and much else that sits with quiet ease on the shelves of the discerning.

In 1979 he printed an illustrated catalogue for an exhibition of wood-engravings, *Shall we join the Ladies?*, and was much impressed by

Turks never set foot in Dubrovnik, dissuaded by a handsome annual tribute. Dubrovnik's survival intact became the more important after the total destruction of Zante to the south, the "Venice of the Ionian Sea", by an earthquake in 1953 which levelled churches, palaces and colonnades. In recent years Dubrovnik's national monument status had ensured that modernisation was carried out with extreme care.

About half the city's inhabitants are believed to have remained amid the ruins. The photographs were taken by Miro Kerner, who was wounded five times in the process.

The exhibition continues at the Level 5 gallery of the Royal Festival Hall until March 5.

Laura could well have made a successful career on her own in the West End, but she resolved when they married in 1933 that their marriage should be a partnership as well, and thereafter they never worked separately. They had begun their love of adventure, and the two embarked on the hazardous life of running an unsubsidiised touring company, taking Shakespeare around England and Ireland, and finally to India and the Far East. They played in village halls and maharajahs' palaces, from the Himalayas to Travancore. Once their lorry of costumes and props was swept away in a flood in Assam, but undaunted they continued their tour of the tea plantations. Both Geoffrey and Laura were brought up in the tradition that the show must go on, and they had an intense love and enthusiasm for Shakespeare which sustained them in the near impossible conditions brought by heat, monsoons, plagues of mosquitoes and, on one occasion, an earthquake. A generation of Indians in their middle years remember their first taste of Shakespeare with the Kendals in the school halls of Doon, St Paul's or Loreto Convent. Indeed, the Kendals greatly contributed to the continuing love of Shakespeare in India today.

The Kendals' elder daughter, Jennifer, remained in India after her marriage to the film actor Shashi Kapoor. Her death in 1984 came soon after her highly acclaimed return to acting in the film *Chowringhee Lane*. This was a tremendous blow for the family, and the festival at the Prithvi Theatre in Bombay a year later was dedicated to Jennifer.

Geoffrey and Laura Kendal flew out to India last year to receive the Sangeet Natak Academy Award for services to the arts in India from the president of India, the first foreigners to be given this honour. Laura Kendal's final visit to India, the land that became her second home, will be made this weekend when her ashes are taken there by her husband.

Young and able colleagues were encouraged to accept new responsibilities or pressed into service from elsewhere; but although Moran favoured innovation and fostered fresh ideas he refused to jettison any of those basic principles on which his discipline was founded. His outlook was firmly rooted in the tradition of the founder of the centre, Sigmund Freud's youngest daughter. Indeed, it was as a student who distinguished himself that he earned Anna Freud's whole-hearted approval, not easily

for all his dedication to psychoanalysis, he never believed that a sound psychology could be practised in isolation from other disciplines. Connections of an informal and co-operative kind already existed between the centre and the psychology department at University College, and the paediatric, endocrine, and child, psychiatric

the quality of reproduction that he realised was now possible with printing by offset litho from retouched bromides. Prompted by Gill's daughter Joan Hague, and inspired by his own enthusiasm, he now started work on *The Engravings of Eric Gill*, which was eventually published in 1983. For this he had to gather the best proofs possible, twice visited America, and was finally able to research at length in the print room at the V&A, which had long been closed. The result was a collection of engravings that fulfilled all expectations, showing almost everything that Gill had cut, the prints carefully related to John Physick's earlier, but ill-illustrated catalogue. Published in a large enough edition, 1,350 copies plus 85 specials, it was possible to price the former at only £110 — and the negatives have recently been used again for a new edition now priced at under £30. It has made Gill's engravings as widely available as he could have wished. In 1988 he printed, again by offset, an excellent reproduction of *The Four Gospels*, first published by the Golden Cockerel Press in 1931 and which included some of Gill's finest engravings. In 1989 Skelton supervised the printing of his final book, a large quarto reproducing Edward Gordon Craig's *Black Figures*.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, four sons and three daughters.

He leaves his wife, Elizabeth, four sons and three daughters.

## Latest wills

Latest estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mrs Frances Mary Green of Pilverbatch, Shropshire £53,377.

Mrs Monica Gladys Hargreaves of Dereham, Norfolk £543,348 net.

Miss Violet Irene Quick of Tiverton, Devon £584,587.

Mr Robert Frederick James Parsons, solicitor of Cambridge, Surrey £1,024,914.

Mrs Marie Vera Potter of Lowestoft, Suffolk £580,014.

Mr John William Siggins of Morpeth, Northumberland £901,762.

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# Case against Guinness two is dropped

BY PAUL WILKINSON

CHARGES against two defendants in the Guinness case were unexpectedly dropped by the Serious Fraud Office yesterday after the defence put forward new evidence.

David Mayhew, of the Queen's stockbroker Cazenove, and Roger Seelig, former corporate finance director of the merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell, were formally acquitted of three charges arising from the brewer's takeover of Distillers in 1986.

Their trial would have

would have been the third of

## Bail for break-in case man

Continued from page 1  
dates. Both the accused were given conditional bail to appear again on March 6. Mr Berkowitz was ordered to report daily to Hove police station, lodge a security of £3,000 with the court and keep to a midnight to 6am curfew. He was ordered to surrender his passport, remain at his present address and not interfere with witnesses. His former wife was ordered to report daily to Brighton police station, surrender her passport and not interfere with witnesses.

Martin Lowe, solicitor for Mr Berkowitz, said outside the court earlier that his client would be pleading not guilty to both charges, although he admitted having had the document referring to Mr Ashdown. Mr Lowe said: "He admits to having the document in his possession and he has explained to the police... the circumstances in which he had it and what he did with it."

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

four court cases arising from the £2.7 billion bid. In the first, which ended in August 1990, after six months, Guinness' former chairman, Ernest Saunders, and three other leading City figures were convicted of conspiring to boost the brewer's share price.

Guinness II, which also has Mr Seelig as a defendant, as well as Lord Spens, the former £100,000-a-year managing director of the merchant bank Henry Anshacher, has been running at Southwark crown court since October.

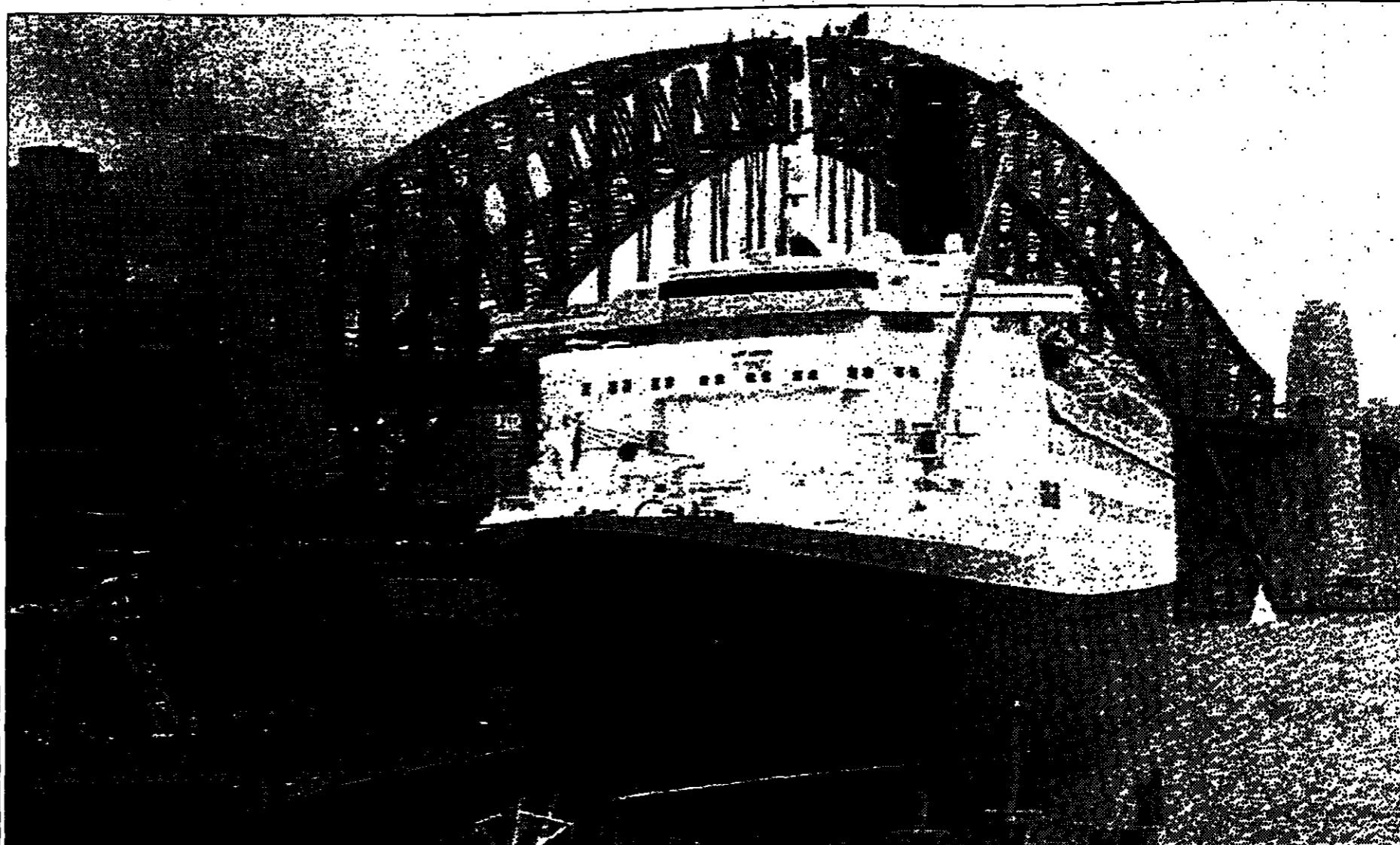
Yesterday's formal acquittal of Mr Mayhew and Mr Seelig by Mr Justice Henry at Southwark crown court came after Elizabeth Gloster, QC, said that the SFO was offering no evidence in what would have been Guinness III. She said that the new evidence, which had not been disclosed publicly, made convictions unlikely.

Delays in the start of Guinness II, because of overrun on Guinness I and frequent interlocutory moves by the defendants, mean that it is not expected to finish until spring of next year, more than two years after it was originally supposed to have finished.

Friends of Mr Seelig, who has conducted his own defence at the trial and at preliminary hearings, say that it is affecting his health. They say that he works on case papers until the early hours and rises early to prepare for the day's hearing.

Mr Seelig yesterday refused to be drawn on the day's events, except to say that he was delighted by the decision to drop the second set of charges against him and pleased for Mr Mayhew. "It is a complete vindication for his position and for Cazenove's, who have stood by him all along," he said.

Guinness IV, the trial of the American Thomas Ward, a former Guinness director, is not expected to open until next year.



Greetings from the old country: the liner Queen Elizabeth 2, on a 101-day world cruise, calling at Sydney yesterday to mark the city's 150th anniversary

## 'Dirty tricks' theories gain ground

Continued from page 1  
allegedly using a credit rating agency, CCN Credit Systems, to run a credit check on Michael German, the Liberal Democrats' campaign organiser in Wales. He called on John Major to order a full enquiry into the activities of Conservative Central Office.

Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, also wrote to Mr Patten telling him to "come clean" about checks run by the Tory party. He called for a public guarantee that such practices stop.

Mr Patten replied that his officials had used a credit rating agency merely to verify a conference application by Mr German's daughter, Lau-

ra. He denied that they had access to credit rating information.

Mr Carlile said: "Mr German is a key voluntary member of the Welsh Liberal Democrats' campaign team. He is a leading city councillor of a very high reputation.

"Whoever carried out this search is guilty of a deplored act of interference with private business. We are calling on them to publicly apologise. This takes political snooping into previously uncharted territory. I will not let mamas rest until those responsible are called to account."

Miss German applied for a pass to the Conservative Welsh conference last year as

part of a group of sixth-form students who wanted to attend for their studies.

The political parties are sensitive about disclosing details of the checks run on applicants, although security at the Tory events is tighter because they are the party in government and are regarded as a more likely terrorist target than either the Labour or Liberal Democrats' de-

particular before buying a mass of material: a newspaper checking the credentials of classified advertisers; or a bank checking on directors of a company applying for banking facilities.

A spokesman for the credit rating company said he could not explain why Conservative Central Office used the service. He pointed out, however, that the firm's information had been readily available to anyone through the public library or the registry of county court judgments. A printout by the company confirms that a check was run on Mr German of 29 Princes Street, Cardiff, on May 31, 1991.

Letters, page 11

## Ford cuts 2,100 jobs as industry slumps

Continued from page 1  
£400 million last year. The company went into the red for the first time in 20 years in 1990, when it recorded a pre-tax loss of £274 million.

The brunt of the cuts will be borne by Ford's two main car manufacturing plants. Six hundred will go from Halewood on Merseyside, and another 500 at Dagenham, Essex. A further 450 will be cut from the Southampton Transit van plant and 300 from the engine plant at Bridgend, South Wales. The cuts will also include 600 white-collar workers. The Vauxhall jobs will go

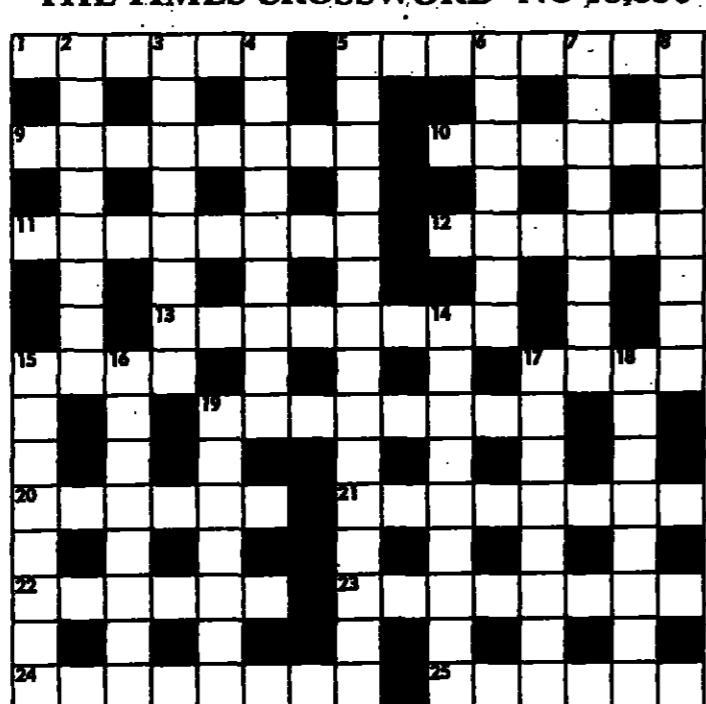
from its parts warehouse in Luton, Bedfordshire.

The reductions announced by BMW yesterday underlined suspicions that Germany had finally been affected by the worldwide economic downturn. About a thousand staff will go from the head office in Munich and the remaining 2,000 will go from plants throughout Germany.

The cutbacks by German motor manufacturers mark the end of the surge in demand for cars after German unification in October 1990.

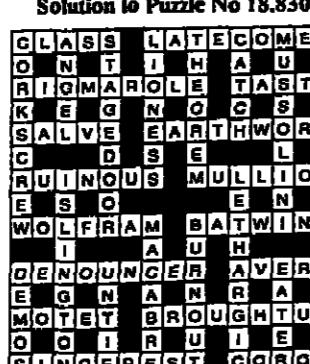
Ministers under fire, page 2

### THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,836

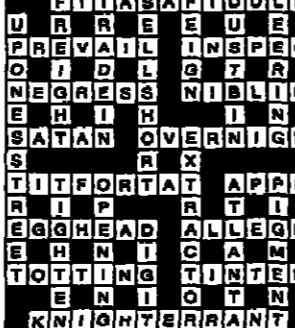


**ACROSS**  
1 Abstract pictures heartlessly destroyed (6).  
5 Bony, for example? It could relieve this (8).  
9 Naval party round in pub — you can't miss it (4,4).  
10 Publication became gente (6).  
11 A hundred drops I spit and swallow (6).  
12 Greeting with audible disapproval 7 ducks (6).  
13 Force with two ways to travel (8).  
15 English poet perceived as dull by Americans (4).  
17 Language learner's hero (4).  
19 Crazy schemer worked out by new King and Queen, say (3).  
20 Tomb of banting enters before end of match (6).  
21 Conservatives relieved when Al went to palace (3,5).  
22 Metalworker to join up again on return (6).  
23 Come down during vacation for a drink (8).  
24 Dr Cameron losing daughter tragically — Matilda? (8).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,830



Solution to Puzzle No 18,835



A daily safari through the language jungle. Which denizens are correct?  
By Philip Howard

**OWLERY**  
a. The study of owls  
b. An Irish endogger  
c. Money paid by a property owner

**FILTWISE**  
a. A webbing debt  
b. Fine for fighting  
c. A flying ghost

**MURKET**  
a. A red rod  
b. A kind of lock stew  
c. To beat the woods

**Answers in Weekend Times, page 16**

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & N & S Circs 731  
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732  
M-ways/roads M1-M2 733  
M-ways/roads M25 735  
M25 London Orbital only 736

National  
National motorways  
West Country 737  
Wales 738  
Midlands 740  
East Anglia 741  
North-West England 742  
North-east England 743  
Scotland 744  
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Barks, Bucks, Oxon 706  
Beds, Herts & Essex 707  
Norfolk & Suffolk 708  
West Mid & Sh Glens & Gwent 709  
Shrops, Heref & Warks 710  
Central Midlands 711  
East Midlands 712  
Lincs & Humberside 713  
Dyfed & Powys 714  
Gwynedd & Cymd 715  
W & E Englands 716  
Wales & Dales 717  
N E England 718  
Cumbria & Lake District 719  
S W Scotland 720  
W Central Scotland 721  
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders 722  
Grampian & E Highlands 723  
N W Scotland 724  
Cathays, Orkney & Shetland 725  
N Ireland 726

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**Answers in Weekend Times, page 16**

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**Answers in Weekend Times, page 16**

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# THE TIMES BUSINESS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

## MONEY

### Profile

Robin Biggam dreamt of becoming a foreign correspondent for *The Times*, but instead pushed himself to take evening classes in accountancy, which although "tough and incredibly boring", started him on the road to his present position as chairman of BICC, the construction conglomerate. Page 17



### Surrender values

Submitting a unitised with-profits policy in the early years could leave policyholders hundreds of pounds worse off than if they had taken out a conventional policy. Page 20

You can come home the cheques been cleared at last.



Lemers. Page 24

### Korea opening

British investors may soon be able to buy unit trusts investing in Korean and Mexican stocks but they must spread their money to avoid the pitfalls of these volatile markets. Page 22

### Tax claim aid

Brenda Deguid will be among the staff working on a free telephone service which begins tomorrow, set up by the Inland Revenue to help taxpayers claim refunds of tax they should not have paid on interest or dividends. Up to eight million people have paid too much tax since April, when the rules on building society and bank interest were changed and the composite rate tax was abolished. Callers will be connected with their local tax office. Page 22



### BES buybacks

Concern is growing that housing associations involved in assured-exit business expansion schemes may not be able to meet their commitments to buy back property. Page 21



### Plugging holes

The Financial Services Act is five years old, but the system of investor protection is undergoing an overhaul to plug holes in its defences against fraudsters. Page 19

## Both the dollar and Wall Street tumble

# Job cuts cast doubt over US recovery

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SHARP fall in employment in America's retail and manufacturing industries in January fuelled market hopes of a cut in interest rates and sent the dollar and Wall Street into steep retreat.

Adding to concern about America's recovery from recession was fresh evidence that recovery has also petered out in Canada, where unemployment rose last month.

The American labour department's closely watched non-farm payroll series indicated a disturbing fall of 91,000 jobs, instead of the

21,000 increase that Wall Street had been expecting.

The data, the first of the important official indicators for January, was seen as confirmation that the American economy is failing to respond to the authorities' efforts to foster recovery. The dollar dropped 2.5 pennies in response to stand at DM1.5645, its weakest for almost a month, at the Frankfurt close. The Dow Jones industrial index fell 30.4 points to 3,225.18.

Michael Boskin, chief economic adviser to the White House, said the economy would remain sluggish for a

couple of months and that unemployment could rise slightly in the months ahead. But he said it would subsequently start to fall as the economy picked up to achieve the 2.2 per cent growth that the administration has forecast for this year.

Mr Boskin underlined that meeting the growth target would be more assured if Congress approved President Bush's growth package, or something close to it.

The American unemployment rate was stuck at 7.1 per cent in January, a five-year high, with 8.9 million out of work. On a seasonally adjusted basis, unemployment rose by 38,000 last month, bringing the total number of jobs shed since the recession started in the summer of 1990 to 2.5 million. The disappointing jobs data followed signs of some improvement in the economy, foremost of which was in housing.

Brian Hilliard, economist at Strauss Turnbull, said the latest figures showed continued weakness that was likely to be confirmed in retail sales and industrial output figures next week. Despite the greater optimism about housing, he expected the construction industry to have been flat in January. Although the pressure on the Federal Reserve Board to ease the monetary reins is now increased, Mr Hilliard cautioned against driving permanent doom and gloom into recent indicators.

In addition to a rise in the number of jobless, the average length of time people were unemployed also lengthened to 16.4 weeks in January from 15.3 weeks in December. The number of people employed part-time who want full-time jobs rose by 40,000 in January to 6.7 million.

Part of the dollar retreat yesterday was attributed to a shift of expectations about the way German interest rates will move. This followed comments on Thursday by Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, which were taken as a signal that there will be no German easing before the summer. Dr Schlesinger said he saw no indications of a loosening in German monetary policy because of strong growth in the German money supply.

Canadian figures showed that the jobless rate edged up to 10.4 per cent in January from 10.3 per cent in December. Statistics Canada said the number of employed Canadians fell by 13,000 to 12.3 million. A 40,000 fall in full-time employment was concentrated among men, as was a 27,000 increase in part-time employment.

A senior government official in Ottawa, meanwhile, said Canada's gross domestic product was flat in the fourth quarter of 1991. He said the same quarter was flat in America, and Canada experienced broadly the same picture.

Canadian GDP rose 0.2 per cent in the third quarter after 1.4 per cent in the second, following four consecutive quarters of shrinkage.

## Bundesbank says no split on summit

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

THE Bundesbank council is attempting to dispel speculation about a split on the assessment of the Maastricht summit by rallying around the official position, which welcomes the agreement on economic and monetary union as "broadly in line with our recommendations".

In a statement yesterday, the Bundesbank refrained from attacking the lack of agreement on political union at Maastricht and noted merely that economic and

political union should go hand in hand.

At a news conference in Frankfurt, Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank's president, denied there had been disagreement among the council members and said that "as usual with such speculation, it was wrong". He said the statement had been agreed by the Bundesbank's entire central council.

However, the comments on Maastricht contained some diplomatically worded criticisms and warnings. The central bank cautioned against strict timetables for the introduction of a single currency, saying "the fulfilment of entry criteria and conditions of convergence should not be restricted by a time frame".

The statement also reiterated the Bundesbank's previous demands that European central banks become independent as soon as possible and that governments should restrict budget deficits to the limits agreed at Maastricht.

Meanwhile, there was further bad economic news with the announcement that west German industry orders fell by a provisional 2.5 per cent in December, resulting in a year-on-year fall of 3.8 per cent. The slowdown was the result of falling domestic orders, in line with a recent trend indicating that economic activity slowed down towards the end of last year.

Jürgen Möller, the economics minister, said the figures provided proof of economic uncertainty.

A GROUP of 500 Lloyd's names who have had to pay out up to £80 million through American environmental pollution losses have reached a £4 million settlement with the Lloyd's agencies that they were suing.

The names were on the Warriow syndicate 533 and issued writs for negligence against the Warriow managing agency and 40 members' agencies in October 1989.

The settlement is thought to be the first between litigating names and the errors and omissions insurance underwriters that dispute the legal actions brought by names.

It has led to widespread speculation that the much larger Outhwaite court case,

which has been adjourned since Monday, may also end in a settlement.

Tom Benyon, the former Conservative MP who headed the Warriow Names Steering Committee, said that the decision to settle came after the discovery that the maximum award that could be made to the names was £8.5 million.

The names have already spent £1.5 million in legal fees, while the estimated cost of bringing the case to court is £3 million.

The settlement represents 13.5 per cent of the names' exposure to the syndicate, compared with losses to date of 270 per cent and still rising; that result means names

will recuperate exactly 5 per cent of their losses.

Mr Benyon admitted that the relatively small settlement did not represent a huge victory for the names but said it would at least make the closure of the 1984 year more likely.

He added that Lloyd's, and in particular its chairman, David Coleridge, had played a "creative and helpful role" in the settlement.

David Harrison, a director of Harrison Brothers Underwriting Agencies, the members' agency, emphasised that the settlement had "nothing to do with Lloyd's".

It had instead been a "purely practical decision" on the part of the errors and

omissions underwriters to reduce costs. No principle of liability has been established through the settlement.

However, he added that nobody at Lloyd's would be comfortable with the establishment of a precedent in which a limited group of names from a syndicate come away with settlement, however small, after bringing a legal action.

"It puts members' agents in an awkward position," Mr Harrison said.

A spokesman for Lloyd's said the corporation had not been directly involved but that it always tried to "facilitate a settlement where it is in the best interests of the society."

## Who ya gonna buy? Ghostbusters

By MARTIN BARROW

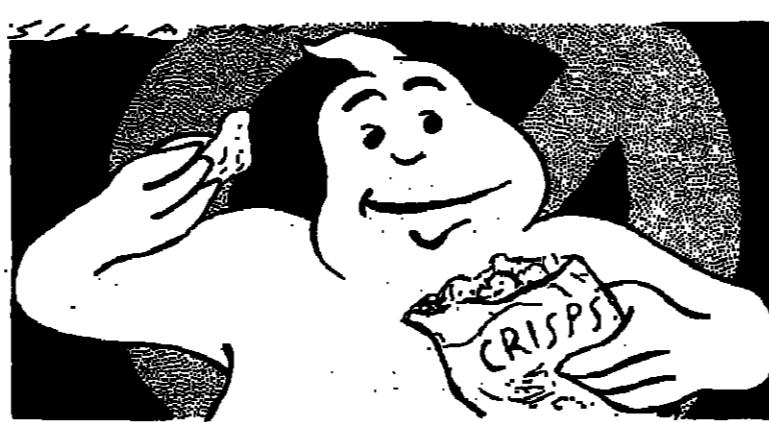
SCUNTHORPE is hardly Manhattan but there is a common link - Ghostbusters crisps. Well, not crisps, to be precise. Schoolboys will tell you that Ghostbusters are crunchy potato to twists. What they may not know is that they are made in Scunthorpe... and they are now British.

Golden Wonder, the snack food company synonymous with home-grown delicacies such as Wotsits and Pot Noodles, has bagged a clutch of American-inspired goodies including Ghostbusters snacks, paying a mouthwatering £44 million for Scunthorpe-based Sooner Snacks.

Sooner is being acquired from Borden Inc, of America, adding a host of schoolboy favourites including Nik Naks, Wheat Crunchies and, of course, Ghostbusters. Dalgety, which owns Golden Wonder, is already Britain's third-largest producer of bag snacks behind PepsiCo - owner of Smiths and Walkers - and United Biscuits. Sooner boasts sales of £57

million, increasing the enlarged Golden Wonder's annual turnover to almost £300 million. The acquisition does not thrust Golden Wonder ahead of its main rivals in sales but it gives the company a strong presence in what is known in the business as the impulse sector. Golden Wonder's snacks are ever present in supermarkets. Sooner crisps, on the other hand, are popular in pubs and clubs, presumably to improve the taste of the beer, and in garages. There is also a good chance that the person sitting next to you in the cinema, driving you to distraction by munching and crunching his way through the film, is eating a Sooner snack.

Maurice Warren, chief executive of Dalgety, won't be too annoyed by



filmgoers' anti-social habits if Sooner can deliver the financial benefits he anticipates. In 1990, the last year for which Sooner's accounts are available, the company earned trading profits of £3.9 million and at the year end net assets were £18 million. Mr Warren believes that cost savings of around £2 million can be achieved through reduced overheads and integrated production, resulting in a wider range of snacks at Scunthorpe.

Mr Warren is also enthused by Sooner's fleet of 200 vans that distribute snacks to smaller retailers and can be used to supply other Golden Wonder products, although pub landlords may not yet be ready to sell pot noodles over the bar.

With 80 per cent of the snack food market controlled by the big three companies, further acquisitions in the sector are unlikely but Mr Warren continues to follow up possible deals for other Dalgety divisions. The group owns Spillers Foods, which produces perfos and Homepride, the flour and sauces maker.

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### THE POUND

US dollar 1.8342 (+0.0167)

German mark 2.8687 (-0.0015)

Exchange index 91.4 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

### STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1945.1 (-16.1)

FT-SE 100 2517.2 (-17.1)

New York Dow Jones 3248.43 (-7.16)

Tokyo Nikkei Avge 22107.12 (+2.20)

### INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base 10.1%

3-month Interbank 10.1% - 10.5%

3-month eligible bills 10.1% - 10.5%

US: Prime Rate 6.1%

Federal Funds 3.7%

3-month Treasury Bills 3.74-3.73%

30-year bonds 10.3% - 10.32%

### CURRENCIES

London: £ 8.345

# Last-quarter fall in insolvencies brings little cheer

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A MODEST fall in insolvencies in the final quarter of last year was encouraging, but it would be premature to speak of a turnaround in the economy, according to the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

The association was commenting on government figures that showed a 5 per cent drop in company insolvencies to 5,554 last quarter. However, this represented a 21 per cent increase on the same quarter of 1990 and boosted total insolvencies for 1991 to 21,827, an annual rise of 45 per cent. The total accounted

for 2.3 per cent of active companies registered with Companies House, which underlines the scale of damage recession has inflicted on British business.

Ron Taylor, the ABCC director general, said it was "encouraging" to see a fall in the seasonally adjusted figure for company liquidations, after eight consecutive quarters of increases. "But we cannot afford to be complacent. One in 43 companies going in liquidation in 1991 has had a serious impact on business confidence." There could not be a company in Britain that had not been hit by a bad debt from a firm going to the wall, and smaller firms, in particular, were suffering severely, he said.

He cautioned against reading the final-quarter figures as evidence of turnaround, since some lag could be expected between any significant downturn in insolvencies and economic recovery. He also forecast continued difficulties for companies in funding work in progress as the economy picked up, and did not expect the final-quarter data to reverse the downturn in business confidence shown in the ABCC's latest survey.

"They will indeed reinforce present caution in British boardrooms about investment intentions," Mr Taylor said. "Recovery continues to be a long and slow process."

The government data showed individual, or personal, insolvencies up 11 per cent last quarter to 7,759 to stand 82 per cent above the final quarter of 1990. Personal insolvencies for 1991 were up 83 per cent at 25,640.

Despite the gloomy picture provided by the insolvency figures, the latest worldwide optimism survey from Dun & Bradstreet, the leading American business information group, shows that British executives' expectations for higher profits this quarter have improved. But it notes that overall expectations in Europe remain mixed, with sales optimism suffering a three-point fall, against a two-

point rise in optimism about the profit outlook. Expectations for higher prices in Europe, the main focus of British trade, have also climbed three points, driven by sharp increases in Germany, France and Switzerland.

Joseph Duncan, chief economist at D&B, said: "Overall, the employment outlook in Europe is grim... Nearly every country reported declining levels of optimism about increased first-quarter employment." The European employment optimism index has now shown negative for over a year. The survey of nearly 11,000 executives in 14 countries showed world business expectations for sales and profits this quarter at the near-record lows seen during the Gulf war.

A survey from Britain's Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors shows that nine out of ten civil engineering firms are operating on lower margins than a year ago, the sixth consecutive quarterly survey to show more than 80 per cent of companies with declining margins. In the previous survey, 85 per cent reported lower margins. In the latest sampling, only 1 per cent of the companies involved were able to report higher margins, while 9 per cent said they were unchanged.

Order books are, however, showing a slightly improved trend compared with October. Some 24 per cent of companies now report higher orders, compared with 16 per cent in October. Firms reporting a deterioration in order books dropped to 50 per cent from 61 per cent.

Randal Bale, the federation chairman, said the fall in margins, despite the easing of cost pressures, was not simply due to a fall in the workload, as civil engineering had held up better during the recession than other sectors of the construction industry. He said companies that were previously concentrating on building had joined the competition for civil engineering business.

**Westland move**

Christopher Bunker, finance director of Westland Group, will leave the Yeovil helicopter manufacturer to join Dowty Group, the aerospace and electronics company, in August.

**Frost buys**

FROST Group is buying six petrol stations for £1.125 million cash. This first site purchase since its reflootation in October 1991 takes the total number of sites owned by Frost to 85.

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Simplified structure: Archie Norman of Asda

## Norman shuffles board at Asda

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ARCHIE Norman, Asda Group's new chief executive, has reorganised the senior management of the group into a more simplified structure, to concentrate on improving the fortunes of the main Asda supermarket business. Mr Norman is taking on the additional role of chief executive of Asda Stores.

The changes involve a switch of roles for Tony Campbell and Richard Harker, Asda's former joint managing directors. Mr Campbell becomes trading director responsible for co-ordinating buying, merchandising and logistics. Mr Harker becomes retail director. He will be responsible for store operations and security.

Jonathan Fox, personnel director, has resigned and a replacement will be announced shortly. No other departures or additions to senior management team are expected. Phil Cox, finance director, will be responsible for systems, Asda manufacturing and MFI, in addition to finance. John Duggan, managing director of Gazeley, Asda's property division, will head a single property division.

Paul Dowling is responsible for a single, integrated PR and communications function, reporting to Mr Norman. The executive members of the group board are Mr Norman, Mr Harker, Mr Campbell and Mr Cox.

## Civil engineering 'has further to fall'

THE civil engineering industry has yet to reach the bottom of the recession and firms expect to continue shedding jobs this year, according to a survey. Two fifths of companies feared job losses and a third predicted falling orders, according to the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors. Firms reporting better order books increased compared with a year ago but most of the 156 companies questioned (62 per cent) said orders were worse.

The results again show workload and jobs falling, and set to fall further before we reach the bottom of the recession," said Randal Bale, federation chairman. "Improvement in civil engineering contractors' profitability needs an upturn in building as well as higher spending on constructing and maintaining Britain's infrastructure."

## CML profit warning

SHARES in CML Microsystems dropped 56p to 247p after the USM quoted electronic components group issued a profit warning. CML's usually strong final quarter is understood to have suffered from a fall in worldwide semiconductor sales; only the American market is thought to have held up. As a result, the group reviewed orders for January to March. It concluded that second-half pre-tax profits are likely to be "moderately below" the first-half figure of £2.37 million, although the board is confident of the medium- and long-term outlook. Analysts have cut their full-year profit forecasts from £5.5 million to about £4.3 million (£4.85 million).

## SWEB debt move

SOUTH Western Electricity (SWEB) has made its first foray into the capital markets by setting up a £100 million multi-currency commercial paper programme. The programme, which will be used for working capital and general corporate funding, has been given the top A-1 plus and P-1 ratings by the leading rating agencies. The programme was arranged by NatWest Capital Markets and the dealers are NatWest, Lloyds Bank and Midland Bank. John Sellers, SWEB's finance director, said that the programme "will provide a cost-effective means of displacing some of our existing short-term borrowings". He was confident it would be a success.

## Tokyo brokers shrink

JAPAN'S scandal-plagued brokerage industry shrank by 10,000 workers in the second half of last year, the first decline since 1979, the Japan Securities Dealers Association said yesterday. Employees at 267 brokerages, including 50 foreign brokers, totalled 156,538 at the end of 1991, down from 166,965 at the end of June 1991, and down from 158,601 at the end of 1990. Shrinking employee bonuses and commissions, after a prolonged slump in stock prices slashed company earnings, also prompted many to quit. Still others were dismissed or retired early as part of brokerages' efficiency plans. "Many brokerages are struggling to cut costs," one industry source said.

## P-E to hold payout

P-E International, the management and computer consultancy which suffered a 33 per cent decline in first-half profits, said it plans to pay a maintained final dividend of 4.2p, giving an unchanged total of 6.2p, when it reports in March. The company also announced that Hugh Lang, aged 60, is to step down as executive chairman after the annual meeting on May 20. George Cox, the former managing director of Butler Cox, will succeed him. Mr Cox, aged 51, has joined the P-E board as a director and as executive chairman designate. P-E shares eased 4p to 91p, after touching 97p.

## Packer float details due

DETAILS of the flotation of Kerry Packer's magazine unit, Australian Consolidated Press (ACP), will be released on Monday, according to Ord Minnett Securities, the underwriter. Press reports have said Mr Packer's privately owned Consolidated Press Holdings (CPH) will sell 55 per cent of its ACP magazine interests to raise about Aus\$475 million (£196 million). Last month, Consolidated Press said that up to Aus\$50.3 million would be raised through the flotation of 51 per cent of Valassis Communications, Mr Packer's American advertising coupon insert business.

## IIC asset value up 5%

THE net asset value of the Independent Investment Company, a trust managed by Ivory & Sime, was up 5.7p at end-December. This represents a rise of 5 per cent in the first six months of the financial year, and a 10.3 per cent advance when compared with end-December 1990. Pre-tax revenue in the six months to end-December 1991 fell to £582,000, against £798,000 last time. Earnings dropped to 0.4p (0.59p) per share. Once again, no interim dividend is being proposed.

## Kvaerner buys Enserch firms

From REUTER IN OSLO

Wright units in both the America and Britain.

"Kvaerner wishes to expand its foreign activities in the offshore area to include the entire North Sea. Thus it is natural to acquire an engineering subsidiary in Britain," Kvaerner said. The British firm will be Kvaerner H&G Offshore Engineering UK and a subsidiary Earl & Wright, and work with projects linked

to processing facilities on North Sea platforms.

The company has 550 employees in the British Isles with a head office in London and a branch in Aberdeen. In America, the firm would be called Kvaerner Earl & Wright Inc, with 100 employees in Houston and San Francisco. The company would mainly serve nations around the Pacific.

## National Westminster Bank Mortgage Rate

With effect from 24 January 1992 for borrowers whose applications have been signed but whose mortgages have not been drawn, and from

1 March 1992 for existing borrowers, the NatWest Mortgage Rate payable under current Mortgage Deeds and Conditions of Offer will be reduced from 11.55% to 10.99%. This change will be reflected in existing borrowers' repayments from 5 or 22 March 1992.

## National Westminster Home Loans Limited

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## BUSINESS PROFILE: Robin Biggam

## Rise and rise of a reluctant accountant

**BICC's chairman has a fascination for history, although his career took a different course, Carol Leonard finds**

**T**hirty-three years ago, in a semi-detached house in Carluke, Lanarkshire, Robin Biggam was shut away in his bedroom, poring over accountancy books — not that he really wanted to be an accountant. He cherished a dream that one day he might go to university, then become a foreign correspondent for *The Times*.

He was, and still is, fascinated by history and current affairs, but times were hard, money was short, and Biggam's father, who spent his working life with British Linen Bank, concluded that as all the chartered accountants he had met appeared to have plenty of money, this would be a good profession for his only son.

Biggam's father, an elder in the local Presbyterian church, had instilled the work ethic into all three of his children and Biggam applied himself dutifully to this career course. At the age of 17, he was articled to a firm in Glasgow and he attended classes five evenings a week for the next five years. "It was tough and incredibly boring," recalls Biggam, now aged 53 and chairman of BICC, the £937 million cables, engineering and Balfour Beatty construction conglomerate. "I'm not a natural accountant, I'm a natural historian, but there was a feeling that I had to do it. That there would be no future for me unless I had the determination to actually swot up and get through the exams, plus the thought of what might happen to me if I did not."

In the rare moments when he contemplated the prospect of failure, he would look about him at the lifestyle of his neighbours: coal miners and steelworkers at nearby Ravenscraig. The young Biggam knew that he was different. Or, more to the point, he knew that he wanted to be different.

"It sounds trite, but I really wanted to get on and do something with my life. I wanted more than my parents had had and more than the people around me had had. I felt that there must be

more to life than sitting around in Lanarkshire for the next 50 years."

Even at Lanark Grammar, where he was good at sport as well as his studies — he was a year ahead of his age group — he was never fully part of the crowd. "I was always with the crowd, but I was also always just a little bit apart. I had a driving force that made me somehow different. People who knew me at school probably remember me, even at that stage, as being pretty ambitious. I don't think they would be surprised to see me now." Biggam lives in a large Georgian house with two acres of grounds in Bedfordshire, owns another home in Portugal, is looking for a  *pied-a-terre* in London and draws what he describes as a "ridiculous" salary of £230,000.

That salary can be justified by BICC's growth in profits from £101 million in 1986, the year he took the helm, to £183 million in 1990. Earnings per share, in the same period, have almost doubled.

The cables business, which has also doubled in size, now accounts for 40 per cent of turnover and 75 per cent of profits. BICC is now one of the three biggest cable companies in the world. If Biggam, who became finance director of ICI Fibres at the age

of 35, then went to work for ICI and Dunlop, alongside Sir Michael Edwards, has one regret, it is, he says, that he sacrificed his youth. "Between the ages of 17 and 22, I was working through the evening. It has, perhaps, changed in Scotland now, but when I was young, people who came from very humble but Presbyterian backgrounds, and who wanted to make a success of their lives, believed in hard work and no play. Education was the way to improve yourself and escape. That's why I was so determined that my own children would go to university."

Biggam's children have fulfilled his ambitions. Ross, aged 28, is employed by the Houses of Parliament as an adviser on European affairs to the select committee — a job his father would love to do; Jennifer, aged 25, buys television time for clients at Saatchi & Saatchi; and Carolyn, aged 22, is a student at Goldsmiths' College. Biggam says: "She wants to be a primary school teacher, like her mother." Biggam's wife, Betty, also a Scot, teaches two days a week. Of the three children, it is Jennifer who is most like her father "both in character and looks," says Biggam. "She is stubborn and headstrong. Perhaps it is modesty, perhaps it is stubbornness, but I do not like to blow your trumpet."

Mrs Biggam agrees with his indirect self description. "Yes, he is stubborn. He holds out for something he believes is right and nine times out of ten he is right. He is a very uncomplicated person, very straightforward, terribly honest, straightforward and very generous with me and the family." Biggam is not, she says, a workaholic



Family first: Robin Biggam, relaxing at home with his wife, Betty, likes to keep his private and public lives separate

peasant affairs to the select committee. He has never put his career first, but although he makes friends easily, entertains often, and is a warm and generous host, he is not spontaneously open. He makes a point of differentiating between business associates and personal friends and, almost without exception, keeps the two worlds apart. "He is quite an open person but he always keeps a little bit back until he knows you really well. Deep down, he is a very private person and so am I. As I do, he finds it difficult to talk about himself. Perhaps it is modesty, perhaps it is stubbornness. He is not like to blow your trumpet."

I suggest that this paragon of virtue must have some faults. She thinks long and hard. "He flings around the channels on the television without telling me," she says eventually. "Yes, of course it annoys me. I ask Biggam the same question. He too pauses for

thought. He is not afraid of silence. He is then slightly more forthcoming: "I'm intolerant and inconsiderate." Both his claims and his wife would refute. The prospect of modesty again rears its head.

Intolerance and lack of consideration are traits out of keeping with his political leanings. Biggam was a founder member of the SDP, says he is not, however, a believer in lost causes, and that his political allegiance now oscillates between the Liberals and the Conservatives. "I really believe that politics is far too confrontational in this country. Other European countries seem able to prosper with coalitions and we keep telling ourselves that it is impossible in this country. We move from one extreme to the other. Politics of the extreme are certainly not conducive to running a business."

Biggam has a habit of abbrevi-

ating sentences. It is a sign, perhaps, of a quick mind. Colleagues will attest that this is true, that he is quick at solving problems, quick at assessing individuals, and that the one thing guaranteed to irritate him is a long-winded subordinate.

Barry Keats, BICC's personnel director and one of the few business associates to have been invited into the Biggam family home, says: "He does have an extremely fast mind, and that his political allegiance now oscillates between the Liberals and the Conservatives. "I really believe that politics is far too confrontational in this country. Other European countries seem able to prosper with coalitions and we keep telling ourselves that it is impossible in this country. We move from one extreme to the other. Politics of the extreme are certainly not conducive to running a business."

Biggam refuses to discuss religion.

"It's a purely personal thing and not something I would like to see in print." Long after the interview, he attempts to have publication of this article halted.

It is only when I ask Biggam about Scotland and his roots that he suddenly seems able to roll all the answers into one, resorting to the safety of talking in the third person. He describes himself as a passionate expatriate. "Deep down I think all Scotsmen are emotional and volatile. The dour Scotsman is just a figment of the imagination, it is quite the opposite really. They care passionately about life, but they have got to have 'bad enough' whisky before they show it."

**WEEK ENDING** Matthew Bond

## Falling foul of a desire to increase Rover's returns

BET Gilroy has long been a familiar sight on the pages of the tabloid press. But when Britain's best known barmaid graduates to the front pages of the broadsheets, it is clear that something serious must be oop, sorry up.

According to Mrs Gilroy — perhaps better known by her maiden name of Lynch and more accurately as actress Julie Goodyear — what was up was the future of British broadcasting, which this weekend reputedly teeters on the edge of collapse following the enforced departure of David Plowright, chairman of Granada Television.

Given the relentless enthusiasm of the television industry for making a drama out of a crisis (*Brideshead Redeemed* — you've read the stock exchange announcement, now watch the mini-series) it is difficult for outside observers to determine just how critical Mr Plowright's departure, after 30 years, really is.

Ms Goodyear was in no doubt, however, and made an impassioned plea for Mr Plowright's return. "David Plowright has Granada stamped through him like a stick of Blackpool rock," she said, showing a Bet-like case with sharp one-liners.

Much has been made of the fact that Mr Plowright's hasty exit followed an alteration with the new chief executive of Granada Group, Gerry Robinson, who not only has the misfortune to be an accountant but arrived at Granada from Compass Group, a catering and private hospitals company. "I mean darling, he's all clings and bedpans. Not exactly Bafta award material is it?" As for what her new boss might be stamped through with, Ms Goodyear, perhaps prudently, is not saying.

Personally, I think Mr Robinson just has a few first nerves. After all, he has been there only four months and probably still thinks that the main aim in commercial television is to make money. But we know better than that — don't we huvvies.

Not that we need to spend



nothing to end. Until this week... For after weeks of very publicly resisting temptation, she finally snapped. A gleaming new Mercedes convertible sports car now takes pride of place in the royal garage.

Some believe the controversial acquisition was made under orders from Buckingham Palace, in a desperate last attempt to bridge the huge popularity gap that exists between the princess and her sister-in-law. Others think it was probably the Duchess of York who encouraged her. But whatever the motivation, the princess' new car comes at a distinctly inopportune time for the British motor industry.

For when it comes to matters vehicular, things have

not been quite as they were.

## Lufthansa poised to cancel new aircraft

By WOLFGANG MUNCHAU

THE downturn in the world airline business has finally caught up with one of the industry's rock-solid operators: Deutsche Lufthansa, the German national airline.

Lufthansa confirmed yesterday that it might have to delay orders on 11 new Boeing 737 and Airbus 320 aircraft, due for delivery next year, as part of a cost-saving drive. The airline's management board is considering a series of measures, which could include further order cancellations.

A spokesman said that "restrictive staff measures" are also being looked at. It is widely speculated that this could include a freeze on hiring new staff or even redundancies.

Last year was one of the worst in the history of the airline, which gave a warning this week of a DM 400 million loss for 1991, the first loss since 1973. Like other carriers, Lufthansa was hard hit by the Gulf war and the worldwide economic downturn.

In 1991, there was a 33 per cent expansion of its fleet, to a total of 225 aircraft, but the collapse in the second-hand aircraft market meant that plans to sell 14 used aircraft had to be shelved. The fact that used aircraft are difficult to resell is one of main reasons for the company's review of its orders.

Lufthansa's difficulties and the tightness of German public finances have again raised the issue of privatisation. The airline is listed on the German stock exchange, but the majority of the shares are held by the federal and regional states.

The official line from Lufthansa is that privatisation is a matter for the shareholders rather than the company itself.

The biggest obstacle to privatisation is the transfer of the company's pension fund — under which Lufthansa employees enjoy the same benefits as people working in the public sector — to a private-sector fund.

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TEMPEST

## Wolseley taps in to French success

WITH the wave of cross-border takeovers over recent years, a number of venerable national and racial stereotypes are becoming difficult to sustain.

Popular British myth had it that French plumbing standards were not quite what they could be. No more. From today, not only will the company supplying many of the water pipes and U-bends of France be British-owned, but the purchaser, Wolseley, admits that standards of French plumbing may actually be higher than in the UK.

The £930.95 million purchase of the Brossette Group went down well in the City. Wolseley shares closing 1p up to 414p. Wolseley does not deny that it is paying a full price for the acquisition but believes that the opportunity to buy the company was too good to miss. Brossette, 95 per cent owned by the founding Brossette family, is the market leader in France with a 12 per cent national share and is warranted to have made pre-tax profits of £10.14 million last year.

The multiple of 13.7 times historic earnings

looks pricey but Jeremy Lancaster, the chairman and managing director of Wolseley, is adamant that the deal will not dilute earnings.

Further ahead, Brossette will form the launch pad for further expansion east into Germany and south into Spain and Italy. Wolseley is already the biggest company of its kind in the world, dominating the UK and American markets. Now it looks as if it has the whole of western and, in due course eastern Europe in its sights.

However, the deal is also something of a leap in the dark. Wolseley is well aware of the cultural pitfalls of Anglo-French business partnerships, and with a largely non-Francophone board has its work cut out to achieve a successful integration.

The shares issued to finance the deal mean that earnings expectations for the current and next financial years are little changed at 25p and 29p respectively. The shares, on a 1993 multiple of 14.6 times, do not come cheap, but Wolseley has fully justified its premium rating.

## Wiggins Group

ATTEMPTS to contact Wiggins Group are as difficult for customers as they were for Tempus yesterday, the housebuilder would be struggling without a recession.

Cynics might have questioned whose hand was on the pickaxe that smashed the company's telephone link on one of its most public days of the year, were it not for the fact that Wiggins always seemed approachable in the early days of the property collapse.

So serious has been the slump in property values that net assets have deteriorated to less than half the paid-up share capital, and shareholders are sum-

moned to an extraordinary meeting at the end of the month.

Operationally, the key measure taken so far is the switch of the group's prime activities from London's docklands to the East Midlands, where Stephen Hayman, the chairman, sees "some indications of an improvement in the demand for new houses".

Closing down the operations in the South-West cost more than £1 million and led to a doubling of the group loss for the six months to September 30, to £1.76 million. In the previous full year there was a loss of £2.49 million.

At 10p the shares are only for the very brave.

MARKET-makers were busy selling shares as the two-week trading account closed, which does not bode well for Monday's new account.

Brokers say the market-makers have been selling stock to balance their books and minimise exposure to the market. This clearly had an impact on the market, with the FT-SE 100 index ending the session near the day's low, 17.1 down at 2,517.2. But turnover was boosted to almost 600 million shares as market-makers sorted out their positions.

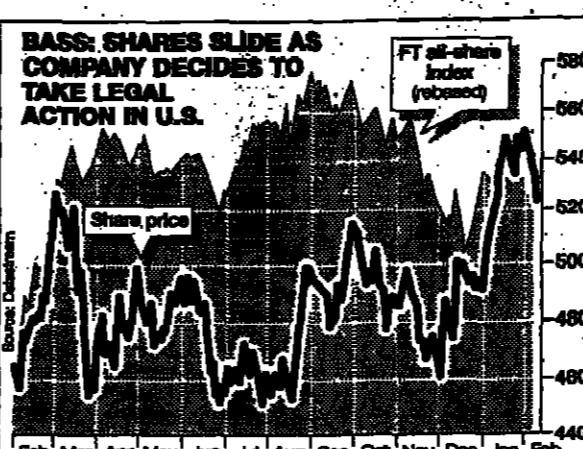
There has been persistent concern in London during the past couple of weeks about a big technical correction on Wall Street after its record-breaking run. There has been little evidence of one so far, but with the Dow Jones index opening lower in early trading, traders in London were taking no chances.

This has been one trading account that fund managers and traders alike will be glad to see the back of, with sentiment weighed down heavily by gloomy political and economic news, the worries over Wall Street and a general absence of corporate activity. Bearing this in mind, the institutions have doggedly stuck to the sidelines, waiting for signs of an upturn on the economic front or a pick-up in corporate trading news.

Gilt closed with losses of almost 1% at the longer end, unsettled by the start of trading on Monday in a new tap £1.25 billion of Treasury 9 per cent 2012.

International companies were worried about renewed dollar weakness and there were falls for ICI, 20p to £12.53, GEC, 13p to 81p, and Smiths, 13p to 86p.

Wace, the drinks and hotel group, fell to 513p before closing 13p lower at 52p, after the company announced it had begun legal proceedings against Promus, the company that formerly managed its Holiday Inn hotel chain.



Bass claims that it was misled by Promus when it agreed to pay \$2.23 billion for its hotels in 1990. Promus had been established to buy out other assets of Holiday Corporation, the original owner

cider. The shares closed 18p down at 524p.

Allied-Lyons showed signs

of bottoming out after this

week's steep fall, the price

easing just 3p to 619p. BZW

has become the latest firm to

There was further heavy turnover in Racal Electronics, with 35 million shares traded as the price firms 1p to 51p. This has fuelled speculation that another bid may be on the way. County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, has done much of the buying. Claims that Williams Holdings may be unloading its stake after the failure of last year's bid seem wise of the market. Williams would be unlikely to use County in preference to its own broker.

of the business.

Elsewhere, the clinics sector, HP Building continued to lose ground, amid worries over the prospect of the European Commission in-

downgrade, cutting its profit estimate for the current year by £25 million to £635 million and for next year from £680 million to £620 million. Once again the move is blamed on poor trad-

ing.

Electra, the clinics sector, HP Building continued to lose ground, amid worries over the prospect of the European Commission in-

increasing the tax on sales of

drugs.

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# WEEKEND MONEY

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Once again we are subject to a pre-Budget flood of mailings telling us to invest now before this never-to-be-repeated bargain is withdrawn by the wicked Chancellor. This year, the season is spiced up with pre-election fever. We now have two Chancellors to fear.

Business expansion schemes with guaranteed exits, single company personal equity plans, managed Peps, and all the other permutations of the tax-free plans are being given the hard sell. Some are moving further ahead to whip up worries about inheritance tax. The prime minister has stated clearly that he wants to reduce the burden of this tax and it is widely expected that his Chancellor will lift substantially the threshold for the start of the 40 per cent tax.

However, scaremongers are trying to sell expensive insurance policies to cover inheritance tax bills. They argue that the spectre of a Labour government makes such an investment a good idea now before prices rise.

Some salesmen even suggest

that people will be leaving a debt behind for their children if they do not take out such cover.

A few offshore products are also being dusted down as a pre-election special. The salesmen encourage investors to transfer their savings beyond the jurisdiction of the British tax authorities for fear of higher rate taxes here, without explaining that the investors will probably still be liable to a tax bill if their affairs are scrutinised closely. The funds will not be covered by the investor compensation scheme.

Sophisticated investors will be aware that this is an annual event and that the BES season would not be complete without a threat to their future. This year it is double-barrelled, the salesmen claim, as both Chancellors have the schemes on their hit lists.

Others might be seduced by the fine phrases and forgot to



## COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

the prospectuses plop through the letter box in ever increasing numbers, a fair amount of scepticism is required and a brief jog of the memory. It is not long since asset-backed schemes to buy hotels and pubs, invest in fine wines and farmland were sold as safe investments.

Money poured in as BES companies promised that the Inland Revenue was going to subsidise all the wine a person could drink. Many investors have lived to rue the day they believed in the glossy photographs and the fine phrases and forgot to

question the details. Too many "risk-free" schemes have failed in the past, making the tax incentives expensive. Too many personal equity plans cost more in charges than investors get back in tax relief, unless they intend to hold the investments for a long time.

No investment in any type of scheme should be bought for the tax breaks alone. Nor should a rush to beat a deadline prevent careful reading of the prospectus and asking of questions of the purveyor of the scheme.

A good investment stands scrutiny and an honest salesman

will not mind finding out the answers. Of course, there is also always the possibility that yet another pre-Budget scare has no substance. This will, no doubt, give the salesmen as they count up their takings.

## Charity breaks

As the fifth anniversary of the Give As You Earn scheme approaches, another attempt to breathe life into it is being attempted. So far, a derisory 143,237 people have signed up to benefit charities through their pay packets.

Next week, a campaign will be launched to encourage more people to give to charities in this way. It enables them to be generous with money that would otherwise have gone to the Inland Revenue. Givers pay only the net

amount after tax but the charities receive the gross amount.

Last year, £23.7 million was paid to 3,500 charities in this way by 2,557 employers. Unfortunately, there are many more workers who would like to give tax-effectively but cannot do so through their payroll because their employers do not want the extra administrative burden of providing it.

Give As You Earn campaigners are looking for a boost to the annual giving limit in the Budget. This is now £600 per employee. It has come a long way since being introduced by Nigel Lawson at only £10 a month.

The Budget could give the scheme an even bigger fillip by compelling employers to provide a scheme if they have more than 50 employees and they have requests from employees to do so.

All too often firms that are reluctant to start charitable schemes are willing to take any credit when their staff dig deep into their pockets to make it a success.

Regulation of the investment industry is being tightened but it is a slow process

## Fraudsters still have a few tricks up their sleeves

BY LINDSAY COOK, WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

INVESTORS seeking reassurance that more than five years after the Financial Services Act became law, savings cannot be siphoned off into yachts, flashy cars or the high living of any fraudulent salesman, are in for a disappointment.

New turmoil on the investor protection front means another financial scandal could already be in the making. The next 18 months are critical.

Three of the self-regulatory organisations established by the Financial Services Act are likely to be replaced by a new body as yet without a name. This will regulate all the investment businesses which deal with the public, apart from stockbrokers and futures dealers, who will retain their own regulatory organisation, the Securities and Futures Authority. The transition period could allow fraudsters to escape detection.

The Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, which regulates 6,663 independent financial advisers, admits there are still problems. John Pinninger, Fimbra spokesman, said: "I would not for one moment say that another big fraud could not happen again. People will become fraudsters for all sorts of reasons. It is not always possible to identify them immediately. John Redwood [corporate affairs minister] is trying to get us to look for the early warning indicators."

The Securities and Investments Board said it did not believe that there would be additional fraud because of the changes taking place. It did, however, accept that during the transition parts of the system could be run-down. "Regulators must be able to distinguish between reasonable cost-cutting measures and those that would damage investor protection," a spokeswoman said.

Without tip-offs, Fimbra may not identify fraudulent activity for at least three years under the current system. Regular compliance visits take place once a year for the larger firms handling investors' money and once every three years for others.

Dunsdale Securities managed to escape detection for more than two years after it came under the regulation of Fimbra by using two sets of books. Its collapse was brought about by two requests for large withdrawals.

The demise of another large investment firm, whose principal is awaiting trial, is attributed to the vigilance of a journalist, by Godfrey Jillings, the chief executive of Fimbra.

The association has revoked the licences of 594 brokers since April 1988 and 43 of its members are currently suspended and unable to carry out investment business.

Because of the way the system works at present some members have resigned just ahead of expulsion and gone on to become the tied agents of insurance companies.

Fimbra says: "There is pressure in the UK and Europe to bring about the regulation of individuals and not businesses."

There is pressure in the UK and Europe to bring about the regulation of individuals and not businesses'

the regulators in the next two weeks. This could lead to a changeover to a single retail body replacing Fimbra, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation and the Insurance Brokers Registration Council.

The earliest this could happen is April next year and that would require willingness on the part of all parties. Some regulatory organisations do not want to be replaced.

Sir Kenneth may also recommend that one investor arbitration body deal with all complaints.

Since last April, 24 firms have been declared in default by the investors' compensation scheme, opening the way

money invested before August 1988 will automatically be covered unless the investor has proof that it had not been fraudulently used by them.

Other investors are persuaded to put their money in diamonds, gold coins, stamps or other alternative investments, but find they are not covered when the investments fail to arrive or do not live up to the sales pitch.

Investors attracted by the tax breaks of enterprise zone schemes can be unprotected when these are arranged so each investor puts up money for a single property.

Those operating without authorisation and managers of insurance company funds are also outside the Financial Services Act. Insurance companies are under the jurisdiction of the relevant regulator.

SIB warns people to be wary if they are offered an unusually high rate of return. Alarm bells should also start ringing if an adviser suggests putting some money into a special scheme run by him but cannot give details.

Investors should resist pressure to cash in long-term policies such as life policies and give the money to the adviser to invest. Rolls-Royces parked outside a

palatial office housing a one-man band operation could be cause for concern. People should avoid being pressurised into putting all their money into one investment instead of spreading it over a range of safer and riskier investments. They should only invest if they understand what is going to happen to their money, and should not rush into things just because an adviser is encouraging them to sign up immediately, the booklet says.

SIB warns people to be wary if they are offered an unusually high rate of return. Alarm bells should also start ringing if an adviser suggests putting some money into a special scheme run by him but cannot give details.

Investors should resist pressure to cash in long-term policies such as life policies and give the money to the adviser to invest. Rolls-Royces parked outside a

## When the alarm bells should ring

BY SARA MCCONNELL

SOME investors lose their money because they think they are putting it into an acceptably above board investment, unaware that it is being siphoned off for other, unconnected purposes. Others are tempted by the promise of high returns to put money into risky ventures, and end up with no return.

However, many pitfalls can be avoided by using some common sense, according to the Securities and Investments Board's booklet, "How to Spot the Investment Cowboys".

No one should consider putting money with a salesman who is not authorised or overseen by an authorised firm. Putting money with an

## Compensation on a sliding scale

TO date 2,439 people have received compensation from the Investors Compensation Scheme set up by the Securities and Investments Board. The most costly default was Dunsdale Securities, where 151 investors received £4.1 million last year. But because of the upper payment limit of £48,000 many investors in this and other schemes receive only a small proportion of their loss in compensation.

It pays out the first £30,000

of a legitimate claim in full

and 90 per cent of the next

£20,000. This has not been

increased since the scheme

started in 1988 and SIB has

no plans to increase the ceiling in line with inflation.

The scheme only pays out if

a firm is declared in default,

which means it has had to

have ceased trading.

The investment referee can

pay out up to £100,000 and

the arbitration scheme operated by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators for Fimbra

has a £50,000 limit, as has

the insurance ombudsman.

If the ICS scheme had no ceiling it would have paid out an additional £3.8 million to investors, the Commons Select Committee on SIB was told.

The first £25 million of compensation in a year is currently

paid for by investment companies.

Should the claims exceed this, an insurance policy would pay the rest.

The insurance policy runs out next month and SIB

has not been able to renegotiate cover at an acceptable premium.

The arbitration scheme offered by Fimbra deals with

claims against companies that are still operating, as do the investment referee and insurance ombudsman.

The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators has received 88 cases

since the scheme was

launched last year. The highest payout has been £29,000 to a woman who received bad advice.

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BY SARA MCCONNELL

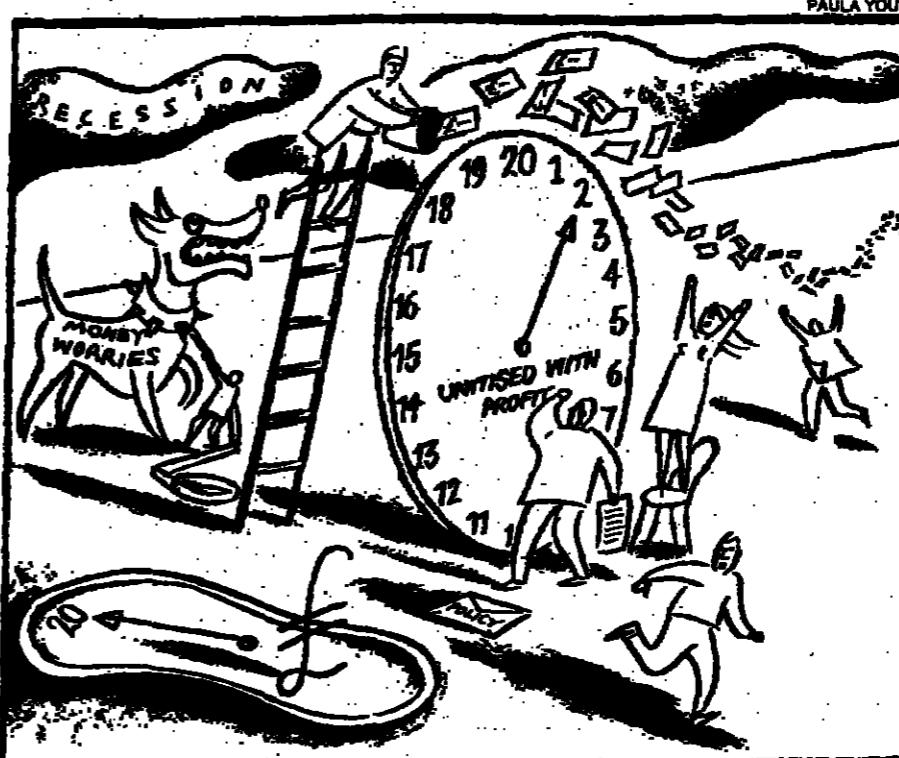
SURRENDERING any endowment policy after only a couple of years is a surefire way of getting back less money than has been paid in premiums. However, people who cash in one of the new, unitised with-profits policies increasingly adopted as standard by life offices stand to lose hundreds of pounds more than with a conventional with-profits policy.

Research from the Securities and Investments Board indicates that up to a third of policyholders surrender their policies in the first two years. These figures have been disputed by several life offices but they concede that surrenders are increasing as the recession continues and people can no longer keep up payments. Norwich Union estimated that only half its contracts over 20 years reached maturity.

Several leading life offices, including Standard Life, Friends Provident and Scottish Amicable, are now offering 25-year unitised with-profits contracts as part of an endowment mortgage to all new borrowers. Other life offices, including Eagle Star, say they will be introducing similar plans this year. The companies also offer shorter-term, unitised with-profits policies.

Contributions to a unitised with-profits policy are invested in units, like a unit-linked policy, and the investment return on the policy is directly linked to the fortunes of the stock market. At the same time, the premiums will earn annual bonuses and a terminal bonus that cannot be taken away. Most companies are now paying an annual bonus of 8.5 per cent.

Unitised with-profits contracts, even more than their conventional counterparts, are structured to benefit pol-



cyholders who stay the course. Those who do not are hit hard by set-up costs in the early years. Only 60 to 70 per cent of any contribution is invested, with the rest deducted immediately for administration expenses and salesmen's commission.

The surrender value of a unitised with-profits policy is simply the value of the units with charges deducted. If stock market performance is bad, life offices can adjust the value of the units downwards, applying a market value adjustment. Bonuses are added but these do not amount to much because of the low level of contribution already invested. It is the upfront charges that pull the surrender value of a unitised with-profits policy down, life company actuaries say.

Someone who cashes in a 25-year unitised with-profits endowment with Standard

Life after two years' contributions of £30 a month will receive only £419 — £155 less than the £574 he or she would have received from a conventional with-profits policy.

Both values are, of course, significantly less than the £720 paid in contributions.

A similar pattern emerges from Norwich Union, where the same policy surrendered after two years would yield £450 from a unitised with-profits policy, and £552 from a conventional with-profits one. At Friends Provident, the payout would be £405 on a unitised with-profits policy and £515 on the conventional.

The annual bonus paid by Friends Provident and Norwich Union is 8.5 per cent, while Standard Life's figures are calculated using a bonus of 9.5 per cent. The company said this should make, at most, a couple of pounds' difference to the surrender value. Surrender values have been worked out using current bonus rates and expenses and these could change.

After five years, unitised with-profits would still have a lower surrender value than conventional.

Norwich Union's unitised payout on the same policy would be £1,538, while the conventional value would be £1,598. The premium would have cost £1,800. Standard Life would pay £1,936 on a conventional policy and £1,743 on a unitised plan. Friends Provident would pay £1,710 on a conventional policy and £1,425 on its unitised contract.

John Hylands, Standard Life's assistant general manager (actuarial), said: "People would get better value if they surrendered a conventional 25-year policy after two years than if they surrendered a unitised policy. But the unit-

ised value is broadly of the right order because unitised contracts are better able to recognise expenses. In conventional contracts, expenses are a blunter instrument. The conventional surrender value is really too high after two years." The expenses of a conventional policy are spread more evenly over the life of the policy.

Kevin Fogg, product development department actuary at Norwich Union, said:

"There is no actuarial reason why there should be such a wide differential, although you would expect the surrender value of the unitised contract to be slightly less because it is administratively more expensive, with switching and so on."

If a conventional policy is surrendered, the value is calculated using an "actuarial formula". Chris Baggaley, marketing manager, individual business, at Eagle Star, said: "This formula has been unaltered for 15 years. We look at the value of the basic sum assured according to age, then we place a value on the bonuses accrued to date. The value depends on age on entry and the term of the policy."

On the shorter-term policies, particularly 10-year contracts, unitised with-profits offer better surrender values than with-profits contracts. After two years, Standard Life would pay out £630 on a unitised policy and £566 on a conventional one. After five years, the amounts would be almost equal.

Life offices are, of course, keen to emphasise that nobody should surrender a policy early and that both types of policy would produce virtually equal values on maturity. However, because unitised with-profits policies have been running only a few years, there are no figures yet to bear this out.

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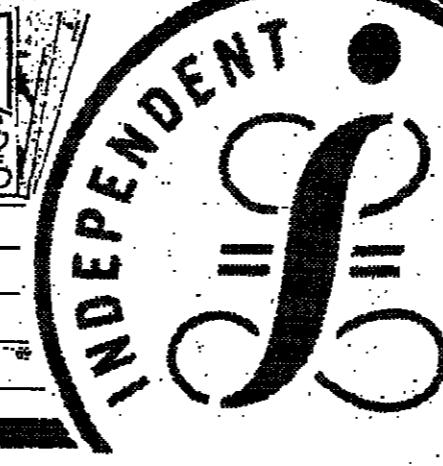
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# Concern mounts over BES property buyback

BY SARA MCCONNELL

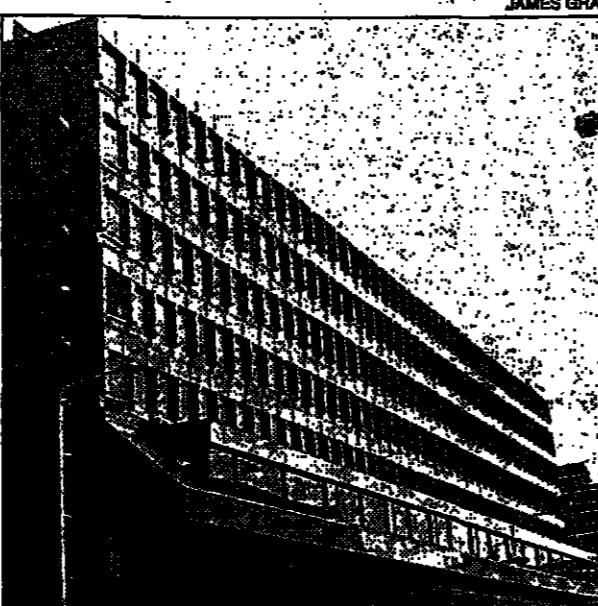
CONCERN is growing that housing associations which become involved in business expansion schemes (BESs) may not be able to meet commitments made to buy back properties from BES companies when these are wound up after five years.

BESs offering an assured exit are being heavily marketed, particularly as tax relief on them could be stopped in the Budget. These schemes claim to offer a guaranteed return through a contracted buyback of properties by a housing association or university. At the moment, higher rate taxpayers can get 40 per cent tax relief on up to £40,000 invested in any BES. The tax relief is allowed on the grounds that the schemes are risky, but assured-exit schemes are seen as less risky because of the guarantee.

The Housing Corporation, which regulates the activities of Britain's 2,300 registered housing associations, will emphasise in guidance notes to be issued next week that associations should not rely on being able to get a housing association grant to buy back properties.

The corporation said this week: "The guidance notes were first issued in 1988 but now there is specific concern that some housing associations may have been operating on the basis that they will automatically get a housing association grant to buy back properties to which they are committed under business expansion schemes. This is not the case and they will have to go through the normal procedures."

The associations have to tell the corporation of their involvement with a BES only if they have to seek a loan to buy property from a BES company. This means the corporation does not normally know which associations are committed and would not have been able to advise them to steer clear if they were less financially



Guidance: Housing Corporation offices in London

sound. Many BES sponsors, including Johnson Fry, John Gowett and Dartington and Co, the stockbroker, are marketing assured-exit BESs involving housing associations. The BES companies buy properties and rent them to tenants of housing associations for five years. The associations are bound to buy the properties back after five years at a price set when the scheme first buys the properties. This guarantees that investors will be able to sell their share in the company and make a profit. If the association cannot meet its obligations in five years, the BES company could be forced to sell on the open market, making investors wait longer for their money and giving them no guaranteed return.

John Spiers, editor of *BES: Investment*, the specialist

magazine, said: "If investors are not being offered a bank guarantee with an assured-exit scheme, they need to look at the strength of the covenant with the association or other institution. The net asset value of the housing association is meaningless because they have low rents, low turnover and they can't usually sell properties in a hurry."

The best measure of a housing association's strength is to assume 5 per cent of its properties become vacant every year, Mr Spiers said. If they sold these properties then repaid any loans or grant, they would be financially healthy if the money raised from realising this proportion of properties exceeded their commitments under the BES.

Several schemes have allowed for this. Johnson

**The value of the shares in five years depends on the residential property market?**

Fry's Ninth Super Growth Scheme, launched last week, has contracted five associations of which two would not be able to cover their commitments to the scheme after selling 5 per cent of their properties. The prospectus says both companies have agreed to set aside sums every year to build up a reserve.

John Gowett's BES, Assured-exit 2, depends on the ability of the Shafesbury housing association to finance the exit route for investors. The association has arranged a bank loan for £10 million and will set aside a further £3.4 million over the five years. The rate of interest has not yet been set.

Other schemes rely on the financial health of the association for their exit payments and investors should check the small print of the prospectuses.

If the housing association or other institution can afford to meet commitments, assured-exit schemes are still safer than assured-tenancy schemes, which carry no guarantee that investors will be able to sell and no fixed return. Assured-tenancy schemes have been in existence since 1988 but no investor has yet had the opportunity to test how easy it is to realise the property after five years as the schemes have not been in existence long enough.

Assured-tenancy schemes use investors' money to buy property as cheaply as possible, let it to tenants on an assured-tenancy basis for five years or less, then sell the properties.

The value of the shares in the company in five years depends on the state of the residential property market. If it is as depressed as it is now, investors could find themselves with unsaleable property on their hands. Any changes to legislation that give tenants more security of tenure could reduce returns.

Comment, page 19

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Lenders in rare, scarce business

## Be an angel and put cash in the wings

Rodney Hobson reviews the pros and cons of the theatre as an investment

ISLINGTON is best known for The Angel on the Monopoly board. Now it is making a name for another speculative investment, again involving angels.

For the third time in 12 months, The King's Head Theatre is seeking financial backing to transfer a show to the West End. It is offering members of the public the chance to invest £500 each in *Spread a Little Happiness*, a musical revue that has enjoyed full houses during a six week run in Islington.

Investing in theatrical productions is, in the candid words of the prospectus, "extremely speculative and carries a high degree of risk".

Shares taken by theatre angels, as the backers are popularly known, are virtually unsaleable and if the play flops the whole investment is lost. However, even a modest run will ensure that the angels get part of their money back, and a highly successful

show can repay its backers within a month.

*Spread a Little Happiness* is based on the work of Vivian Ellis, a friend of Noel Coward and Ivor Novello and the last great survivor of the composers who made the British musical before the war. He co-wrote *Bless the Bride*, among other successes.

The King's Head, which seats about 120, is negotiating to transfer the revue in March to a West End theatre seating more than 650. With start-up costs of £120,000 and running costs of £22,000 a week, the theatre must average 40 per cent houses to avoid financial failure.

However, since all costs except royalties are fixed, the financial effect of playing to fuller houses is dramatic. Even a half full theatre will repay all costs within 16 weeks. Selling 90 per cent of tickets would mean a profit after only four weeks.

The King's Head, tucked

away behind a pub of the same name, has gained a reputation in theatrical circles as a trial ground for new productions, since it was founded in 1970 by Dan Crawford, still the venue's driving force.

Last April it raised backing to tour with Gary Glitter and produced almost 30 per cent profit for its angels. Most have reinvested for a repeat

year. *Kvetch*, an award winning play, recouped its costs and showed a small surplus despite going to the West End for only a fixed 11-week run.

The King's Head also sent *A Slice of Saturday Night* on tour with Gary Glitter and produced almost 30 per cent profit for its angels. Most have reinvested for a repeat

year. Many angels are connected with theatreland.

Ivan Hale, associate producer at the King's Head, says: "We also get a cross section of the public. Some do it for philanthropic reasons, others purely as a bit of fun like the Grand National or the Derby. Many believe it is a reasonable investment and

think it is an exciting venture to be part of."

Frank Thornton, known on television as Captain Peacock in the comedy series *Grace and Favour*, is among five cast members who will transfer with the play.

*Prospectus from the King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 1QN.*



Funding performance: The musical *Spread a Little Happiness* needs backing to transfer to the West End

## Counsellors overwhelmed by growing debt queues

NEXT week the Council of Mortgage Lenders will officially announce how many people lost their homes last year. Most of them will also have had other debts but many will not have been able to get any debt counselling (Lindsay Cook writes).

Money advice centres and Citizens Advice Bureaux are having to turn away people whose homes are at serious risk or who face court appearances for other debts.

Waiting lists of a month or more for the first debt counselling appointment are not uncommon as money advice support units struggle to train people to do the often voluntary work.

In Liverpool, Barclays Bank is paying £50,000 a year to the city's money advice unit, almost the total running cost. The Nationwide Building Society has just agreed to take over sponsorship of the London Money Support Unit for the next three years at a cost of £245,000. Citibank had undertaken the last three years' support.

However, such funding is difficult to come by for debt counsellors and training units. This week Edward Leigh, consumer affairs min-

ister, asked building societies to reconsider their refusal to give any financial support to the Money Advice Trust. This body was set up in 1990 to channel funding to debt advice agencies. Those societies that have contributed have preferred to make direct donations. These totalled £63,000 last year.

The Money Advice Trust wants £3 million and had



Overstretched: Kevin Wong of the Liverpool money advice unit, with Judith Riley of the NACAB

hoped that societies would donate £10 for every £1 million they lend. This would cost large societies up to £50,000 a year. The trust has been pledged a total of £349,000 and staff to the value of £450,000 have been seconded.

## How to dodge a false pot

By CONAL GREGORY

ART and antique dealers and their trade associations are trying to emphasise the ways in which investors can purchase with confidence, following news that a court case is pending over allegedly fraudulent pottery.

The leading UK body for antique dealers, the British Antique Dealers' Association, founded in 1918, has established two mechanisms to help those with doubts over the authenticity of a piece.

BADA's assessment service will issue a written certificate with a full description of an object, which is invaluable for both insurance purposes and if a

sale is contemplated. The association convenes a panel of not less than three authorities in the field, not necessarily its members. The cost is £150 plus VAT and the commentary will include whether there have been additions, such as later handles or feet, or restoration, which can drastically affect the value.

Where there is "reasonable doubt" between dealers or between an investor and a dealer, BADA offers its Arbitration service, which is free.

The much larger and less exclusive London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association (LAPADA) runs a conciliation service when the individual dealer member cannot resolve a dispute. LAPADA's code of practice requires dealers not only to state the full price but to give a full description, including the material used, the artist's name and if any major restoration has been effected.

By comparison, an auctioneer places the responsibility upon the bidder. Investors using an auction house can normally only secure redress if they can show the article was a fake or forged.

Authorities at the national museums and galleries, as well as at regional ones, can offer individual opinions. The British Museum will see objects Monday to Friday from 2pm-4.30pm, such as antique maps and prints. The Victoria and Albert Museum offers a similar service

on Tuesday afternoons, covering all the applied arts (2.30pm-4.30pm) and the National Gallery similarly on Wednesday afternoons (2.30pm-5.00pm).

For certain materials, Oxford University's Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art will undertake investigations into the age of an object. Mr Rupert Housley uses radio carbon dating for wood but advises this method is not always safe for post 1650.

Professor Teddy Hall has pioneered work on porcelain and pottery using the thermo-luminescence technique. For a fee of £130-£170, plus VAT, depending upon the complexity, the laboratory will use the most appropriate scientific measurement. Mrs Doreen Stoneham says 30-40 per cent of the ceramics submitted are identified as fakes. The service is used by dealers, auctioneers and their clients.

Mr Michael Graham, a noted London English porcelain dealer, says: "It is easy to tell copies. The original materials used were distinctive." Mr Graham says he can identify copies of Chelsea, Derby and Worcester "instantly", as he can for the Regency period where the glazing should be close. "After 1860, it is much more difficult." He is careful with early 19th century copies of 18th century Meissen and with redecorated Sevres.

## PEP

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## THE VIEW FROM SAVE & PROSPER

UK market shows modest rise... US consumer confidence at last begins to return... Tokyo market looking a little less volatile... Pacific region markets enjoy a strong surge... Germany still dominates European market sentiment.

### UNITED KINGDOM

Market gaining confidence.

■ Share prices rose 3% in January and we believe a year-end target of 2,850 on the 'Footsie' is achievable, which would represent a rise of 11% above the market's current level.

■ Market is starting to anticipate a 0.5% interest rate cut close to the March 10th Budget. This should be made possible by sterling's recent strength against the deutschmark.

■ Mortgages for first-time buyers are now at their cheapest for 13 years - this should stimulate the housing market and help kick-start the economy. But consumer confidence and demand still remain sluggish and the latest CBI survey was only faintly encouraging.

■ Patchy company results mean that dividends are likely to be held or even cut. We, however, believe that the market will soon begin looking forward to a resumption of year-on-year profits growth.

### UNITED STATES

Market valuations looking overstretched.

■ The market has risen 12% since the last interest rate cut on 20th December 1991. However, though cash on deposit is unattractive at around 3%, US equity values are also now looking somewhat overstretched on a 17-times price/earnings multiple.

■ The recent G7 summit meeting stressed that economic recovery should be under way by mid-1992. This should help strengthen the dollar and also boost President Bush's re-election prospects.

■ Domestic output was up 0.3% in the 4th quarter of last year, an encouraging indication that the US has avoided a 'double dip' recession.

■ Consumer confidence has at last also shown signs of picking up in January, with improved hotel bookings and increased spending on leisure activities.

### JAPAN

Increasing support at current levels.

■ The recent falls in share prices proved to be greater than we expected. Though unlikely, if the market were to dip much below its current level, it would pose severe problems for Japanese banks and also result in serious international repercussions.

■ There are, however, more signs of optimism in the market. Foreign investors remain active buyers and, more significantly, domestic institutions are returning to the market.

■ At 2%, inflation is well under control and the rate of economic growth in 1992 is expected to slow to 3%. The Bank of Japan has confirmed that more interest rate cuts are possible in order to stimulate the economy.

### SOUTH EAST ASIA

Starting the year strongly.

■ Most Asian stock markets have risen strongly in January. In our view, there is little downside risk and we are confident that further gains will be made.

■ Investor confidence remains good in Hong Kong, helped by the improving political relations between the colony, China and Britain. The market should also be driven upwards by renewed interest in property development.

■ We also expect the Thai market to perform well, as it anticipates a recovery in company earnings and a better political environment.

### EUROPE

Germany still holds the key.

■ The major German steelworkers' union has decided to settle for a 6.3% pay increase. This was at the top end of the Bundesbank's comfort range, but nevertheless encouraging.

■ This important wage settlement means that German interest rates are unlikely to rise further, though it's equally likely that they will fall until mid-1992. Any

later than that poses the risk of denting market confidence.

■ Amongst international bond markets, we favour European bonds most, because of the scope for interest rate cuts later this year.

■ For 1992, France is currently our favoured European market, as we expect it to be a strong beneficiary from the EC Single Market. The French economy is also bound to enjoy a welcome boost from the opening of EuroDisney near Paris in April.

### CURRENT RECOMMENDED SAVE & PROSPER FUNDS

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*Smaller Companies Income Fund* and *UK Smaller Companies Growth Fund* for improving performance from smaller companies. *High Return Unit Trust* as a long-term core holding. Also consider our *Managed Portfolio PEP* for tax-free investment.

#### UNITED STATES

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#### JAPAN

*Japan Growth Fund* for a broad spread of larger companies.

#### SOUTH EAST ASIA

*Eastern Discovery Fund* and *South East Asia Growth Fund* for the region's long-term growth potential.

#### EUROPE

*European Growth Fund* for its high weighting in large companies.

If you would like the latest fact sheet about Save & Prosper's current views on the world's major stock markets or if you require further information on any of the funds mentioned above, just ring the telephone number below, or talk to your financial adviser.

**CALL FREE 0800 282 101**

9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. 7 DAYS A WEEK

Save & Prosper Group Ltd., FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

*This view of world investment markets contains the opinions of Save & Prosper at the time of going to press. It is intended as an information service for investors and Save & Prosper does not accept liability for any loss resulting from reliance on its opinions. Investors should consult their own financial advisers in respect of their own circumstances in the light of their own views of the markets.*  
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Yours sincerely,  
TERRY BINNS,  
15 The Causeway,  
Horsham, Sussex.

## Long wait for cheque to clear

From Dr T.B. Binns

Sir, I have just been told by the Nationwide Building Society that it takes seven working days to clear a cheque.

This is worse than it sounds because Saturdays don't count, nor do the days of paying in or subsequent withdrawal. Hence, on money paid in on January 31, a withdrawal cannot be made until February 12. Nowadays it seems quite unnecessary and unacceptable.

I also learned that a cheque paid in today will not start to earn interest until February 5 — the third working day.

It would be very interesting and helpful if you could publish a table showing how other societies compare. They don't publicise these things. A little competition between them would do no harm.

Yours sincerely,  
TERRY BINNS,  
15 The Causeway,  
Horsham, Sussex.

## REVENUE ERRORS

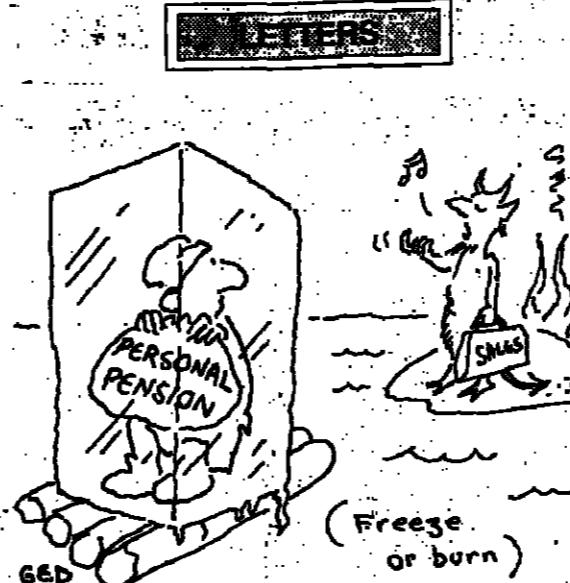
From Mr Stanley Thorley

Sir, is there anything in the citizen's charter which suggests that I might be compensated for Inland Revenue inefficiency or maladministration. I have had three successive tax assessments, all wrong, and each time my accountant has had to lodge an appeal. I estimate that this will cost me £150 on my accountant's bill.

Will the Revenue recompence for their errors?

Yours etc,  
STANLEY THORLEY,

8 Thorburn Road,  
Weston Favell,  
Northampton.



## Rent rise no barrier to enfranchisement

From Mr David Henson

Sir, Lindsay Cook's article on leasehold enfranchisement (February 1) is a timely reminder of the anomalies which still abound particularly in relation to leases whose homes are above the higher rateable value limit for enfranchisement. With the abolition of domestic rates, presumably no properties completed after April 1, 1991, will have a rateable value for the purposes of the Act. What are the government's intentions in relation to these properties?

The final sentence of the article suggests that leaseholders are excluded from the benefit of the Act where the ground rent is increased to more than two-thirds of the

rateable value. I suggest that this is not the case because section 3 (2) of the Act provides that a tenant of property under a long tenancy at a low rent who becomes a tenant under a new tenancy then such last tenancy is deemed to be a long tenancy for the purposes of the Act irrespective of its terms.

Therefore, a rise in ground rent to more than two-thirds of the rateable value should not create a barrier to enfranchisement in cases where a tenant would otherwise be entitled to buy the freehold or claim an extended lease.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID HENSON  
26 High Street,  
Harborne,  
Birmingham.

## Charging for time more appropriate

From the president, Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Sir, I was most interested to read Jill Insley's article (January 18) on the subject of who can give investment advice. "Advice easy to find, difficult to choose". As the Securities and Investments Board has been seeking views on a number of these regulatory issues recently, I would welcome the opportunity of adding a few comments on the subject of the intermediary's remuneration.

My institute believes that payment for the actual time spent by the intermediary on a client's affairs is a much more appropriate basis on which to charge an investor than a commission-based system, and should lead to a better all-round professional service. Where an intermediary is not obliged to sell a particular packaged product on offer, perhaps from a particular life office, a better environment is created in which the investor's interests can be treated as paramount. Furthermore, by not linking the amount of the intermediary's remuneration to the particular product on sale, the intermediary can truly act in an independent and professional manner.

Your readers might like to

note that if a chartered accountant intermediary does not rebate the commission to his client, then under the Institute's

Investment Business Regulations (and its Ethical Guidance), he is obliged to inform his client, both of the amount and the terms of the commission received. There should then be no doubt in the mind of the investor just how much his adviser is receiving from the particular transaction.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN R. MCNEILL,  
(President).

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales,  
PO Box 433,  
Chartered Accountants Hall,  
Moorgate Place,  
EC2.

## Beware pension transfer salesmen

From Mr Alan Hickman

Sir, I agree entirely that those with a frozen pension should "Beware the siren song of a pension transfer salesman," the article by Helen Pridham (Weekend Money, January 25).

Having a pension frozen by a past employer, of personal significant value, I have followed with interest the numerous press articles, that refer to this issue, and also about impending European Court legislation that may or may not considerably affect the transfer values when transferring out of company schemes into personal plans.

The pension salesman is persuasive, but it is so difficult for those thousands of others, who like myself cannot find truly impartial advice, even though many, including one of the "Big Four" banks, claim to offer it. Can you advise?

Yours  
ALAN HICKMAN  
Tichenhale Barn,  
Ashby Road,  
Ticknall,  
Derbyshire.

From Mr Colin Steward

Sir, Helen Pridham is quite correct to warn company pension scheme members of the uncertainty of transferring to a personal pension plan their preserved pension from their former employer's company pension scheme. As she rightly points out, they are frequently attracted by promises of a 13 per cent roll up under a personal pension plan. There are three things a financial adviser often doesn't point out:

1. Personal pension providers are required to quote two specimen rates of return.
2. The upper specimen rate is 13 per cent.
3. Neither rate necessarily bears any relationship whatever to the actual returns being, or likely to be, achieved by the personal pension provider in question.

Yours sincerely  
COLIN D STEWARD,  
14 Levana Close,  
Wimborne,  
SW19.

## INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

BANKS	Ordinary Dep A/c	Compounded at 2% rate	Max/min Investment £	Notice	Contact
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Barclays	7.18	5.70	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-628 1567
Chase	7.45	5.98	25,000-50,000	1 min	071-628 1567
Leeds	8.47	5.18	2,500 no min	1 min	Local Branch
Midland	8.75	5.40	25,000 no min	8 min	071-252 5565
NatWest	8.84	5.47	10,000 no min	3 min	071-252 5565
West	8.88	5.05	10,000-24,000	1 min	071-728 1000
	8.98	5.10	10,000-24,000	6 min	071-728 1000

## HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

BANKS	Ordinary Dep A/c	Compounded at 2% rate	Max/min Investment £	Notice	Contact
Bank of Scotland	6.68	6.34	2,500	none	031-442 7777
Prudential	5.78	5.91	4,73	2,000	none 0804 220291
Co-operative	1.90	1.52	1,000	none	071-628 5545
Ulster	5.25	4.95	1,000	none	0151 929 2076
Grange	5.95	5.15	1,000	none	0272 433 372
Midland HICSA	5.95	5.42	2,000	none	0742 528 955
NatWest	4.50	4.70	500	none	071-724 3374
Special Reserve	6.08	6.21	4,97	2,500	none 031-658 6555
West Penn A/c	4.68	4.89	3.75	2,000	none 071-600 6000

## BUILDING SOCIETIES

BUILDING SOCIETIES	Current Share	5.25	4.20	1 min	none
Best Buy — largest socie	7.13	5.71	500 min	Inst	Posse
Barclay & Blyth	8.21	6.57	1,000 min	Inst	Posse
Bristol & West	7.95	7.00	2,000 min	90 day	Posse
Cardiff & West	8.19	7.35	25,000 min	1 year	Posse
Best buy — all socie	5.48	5.48	1,000 min	Posse	Posse
Nottingham	7.68	7.00	10,000 min	90 day	Posse
St Francis	8.03	6.90	25,000 min	90 day	Posse
Anglo	8.76	7.01	2,000 min	1 year	Posse
Anglo First	8.19	7.35	25,000 min	1 year	Posse
Capital First	5.01	5.01	5,000	5 yrs	041-948 4555
Capital First	11.50	8.62	8,000	5 yrs	100-100,000 5 yrs

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

NATIONAL SAVINGS	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day
Investment A/c	9.50	7.13	5.70	5-25,000	8 day
Investment Bond	9.50	7.13	5.70	2,000-25,000	8 day
Dividend Bond	10.25	7.69	6.15	3 min	041-948 4555
30th Issue Cert	8.50	6.20	6.50	25-100,000	8 day
Young Plan	8.00	6.00	6.00	20-200,000	8 day
Young Plan Standard	8.14	6.14	6.14	11-200,000	8 day
Gen Ext Renter	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	5 yrs
Capital Bond	11.50	8.62	8.00	100-100,000	5 yrs

## HOLIDAY RATES

Holiday rates	2 days
Spanish Families	175.50
French Families	16.00

## Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check this page only. Add these figures to your running total of points. Add the total to the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If not, add the total to the value of your card on the back of your card. You must always have your card as valid when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

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1 Burnt Dens Building Rds

2 Bluebird Toys Industrial

3 Hewson-Stuart Building Rds

4 Lyle's St Teasles

5 Davies Newsman Transport

6 Loring G Building Rds

7 Allied Colloids Chem. Plst

8 Central TV Leisure

9 News Int. Newspl. Pub.

10 Nat Auto Rds Buses, Dics

11 API Paper, Print

12 Laser-Scan Electr. Rds

13 BAA Transport

14 Dawson Textiles

15 Quiggin Building Rds

16 Honeyuckles Drapery Stns

17 Marmer-Sw Electrical

18 Bellway Building Rds

19 Union Dens Building Rds

20 Br. Polythene Industrial

21 Sage Gp Electrical

22 Grand Met Breweries

23 Vizex Industrial

24 Central Mir. Motor. Air

25 Allbrighton Building Rds

26 Macdonalds Industrial

27 Uni Scientific Electrical

28 Rolls-Royce Marconi, Air

29 Moreland Breweries

30 Smith David Paper, Print

31 Pylts Foods

32 Sun TV Leisure

33 Headline Newspl. Pub.

34 Abbey Building Rds

35 Wessell Industrial

36 TV-am Leisure

37 Frogmore Property

38 Iceland Frozen Foods

39 Stand Chart Banks, Dics

40 Rotork Industrial

41 ADE Industrial

42 Clarke Foods Foods

43 Midland Banks, Dics

44 Scurior Industrial

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of 44,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN Total

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mr Robert Haime, of Solihull.

High Low Company Price + Net Yld P/E

1991/2 High Low Company Price + Net Yld P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

211 211 Abt Nat 202 1 85 43 85

185 128 Allied Inv 177 1 15 15

124 124 Boddings 221 1 37 11 31

231 212 Bredgar 221 1 37 11 31

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Abbey Unit Trust Managers				Income Growth				Equity & Law				Las Unit Trust Managers				Prolific Unit Trust Managers					
Bid	Offer	Wdy %	Yld %	Bid	Offer	Wdy %	Yld %	Bid	Offer	Wdy %	Yld %	Bid	Offer	Wdy %	Yld %	Bid	Offer	Wdy %	Yld %		
10 Holdenbury Rd, Bexleyheath				303.50	321.20	- 3.20	5.59	250.20	267.30	- 3.30	3.27	121.70	181.80	+ 1.80	0.51	Smaller Cos	67.03	72.07	- 0.17	4.0	
BHS 0345 717373				306.50	411.00	- 4.00	5.59	358.40	382.20	- 3.30	3.15	202.10	415.30	- 2.00	2.87	Special Corps	71.95	77.49	- 0.99	4.1	
Master Portfolio	1,055.0	1,078.00	- 65.00	2.72	196.37	197.37	- 1.47	6.27	186.37	193.20	- 1.47	6.27	171.40	765.20	- 10.90	2.47	Wid Spec Cos	34.15	36.78	- 0.36	
Mastertrust	69.51	95.73	- 0.38	2.86	199.70	198.00	- 7.20	2.72	124.80	133.30	- 0.90	0.14	106.30	113.20	- 0.80	0.16	40-Acc	34.19	36.82	+ 0.36	
International	62.80	66.81	- 0.49	1.24	69.95	74.00	- 1.00	2.66	99.60	101.00	- 1.50	0.26	86.80	91.21	+ 2.27	0.26	Intercos	149.50	150.00	- 1.50	1.60
Dividend Gbh	46.92	49.91	- 0.55	0.61	79.95	82.00	- 1.14	2.60	190.00	202.00	- 1.20	0.58	143.20	150.50	+ 0.50	0.28	High Income	83.35	88.67	- 2.47	3.32
Global Gbh Sos	53.38	56.78	+ 0.20	1.05	124.50	125.00	- 1.40	2.60	278.10	295.00	- 1.20	0.64	113.30	120.00	- 2.30	0.65	Conv Cos	98.75	105.10	- 5.20	2.03
Global Growth	54.29	57.75	+ 0.13	2.77	146.30	154.60	+ 0.80	0.30	177.00	181.00	- 4.20	5.14	101.30	105.00	- 3.20	0.85	For Cos	217.30	231.70	- 5.40	0.87
High Yield	126.00	134.00	- 1.40	6.34	184.40	181.00	- 13.00	6.03	148.30	154.60	- 0.80	0.30	124.40	130.00	- 2.30	0.65					
Worldwide Bond	217.20	230.30	- 1.40	6.34	208.50	224.40	+ 2.00	0.00	184.60	190.00	- 1.20	0.64	176.00	200.40	+ 1.40	0.91					
Global Fixed Ind	119.30	126.60	+ 1.00	8.18	221.00	234.50	- 3.70	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30					
Capita Jampers Unit Trust Management Ltd				200.70	211.60	- 1.00	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30						
Arttrust Management Ltd				221.00	234.50	- 3.70	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30						
Halifax Standard Trust Management Ltd				230.50	256.10	- 2.00	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30						
Laurence Keen Unit Trust Management				230.50	256.10	- 2.00	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30						
Hamersos Unit Trust Managers				230.50	256.10	- 2.00	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30						
Legal & General Ut Managers				230.50	256.10	- 2.00	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30						
Fidelity Investment				230.50	256.10	- 2.00	0.00	151.10	160.00	- 2.30	0.30	151.10	164.20	+ 1.20	0.30						

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Conv General	16.55	17.63	-0.10	10.80	PFT UK	99.95	106.34	-0.01	1.78		Community	34.19	36.31	-1.10	0.12	High Inc	62.59	65.70	-1.28	0.00	World Rd	55.85	59.57	-1.45	1.05	do- Acc	116.18	123.91	-1.04	0.55
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT					PFT Cash	83.29	83.29	+0.11	9.53		Widener Star 100	91.60	97.97	-0.90	0.12	Fed Sec	41.25	43.82	-0.57	3.05	Tokyo	62.59	65.70	-1.28	0.00	do- Acc	29.35	31.29	-0.88	0.00
London 15 St. Pauls Street.					EFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS						Global Assets In	51.06	53.54	-0.11	2.81	Gold	34.48	36.12	-1.24	0.00	do- Acc	30.15	31.97	-0.82	0.00					
London EC2A 7JL. 071 247 4342. Dooling.					4 Middlesex Chambers, Edinburgh.						Global Assets As	51.71	53.51	-0.11	2.81	Indl Growth	54.00	57.50	-0.10	1.12	do- Acc	31.25	33.25	-0.98	0.00					
071 247 7474					EFM 090 526						Scotstar Cos Div	41.89	44.81	+0.01	0.30	Indl Inc	92.30	98.20	-0.20	1.12	UK Equity	136.10	145.10	-0.40	4.21	do- Acc	53.08	57.17	+1.09	0.00
High Div	53.50	53.44	-0.05	3.02	Amerscan	86.70	92.12	-0.54	1.73		Proprietary Share	51.28	54.48	-0.34	2.63	Japan Gen Acc	36.30	41.52	-0.70	0.20	TRUST MANAGERS LTD					do- Acc	47.60	44.53	-0.04	0.00
do- Acc	53.42	58.75	-0.65	3.02	Capital	135.60	144.10	-0.10	1.73		Exempt Funds					Japan Smcr Cos	111.50	120.10	-0.50	0.30	159 St. Vincent St. Glasgow G2 5NQ.					do- Acc	42.47	45.29	-0.82	0.00
Income Fund 5	163.90	174.40	-3.60	5.98	Convertible	20.80	22.21	-0.32	0.00		Exempt	113.40	119.70	-1.64	6.03	Medifund	33.50	36.10	-1.60	0.59	NATIONAL & PROVINCIAL UT					do- Acc	32.03	34.16	-0.41	0.55
do- Acc	154.70	177.40	-2.60	5.98	Enrolled	33.95	35.57	-0.62	0.00		European Acc	43.59	49.12	-0.59	2.98	do- Acc	101.00	124.30	-2.30	0.60	do- Acc	35.87	41.45	-0.58	0.00					
Inv Fund 5	54.26	54.16	-0.12	1.22	Medifund	144.00	146.00	-0.00	2.50		European Dst	91.07	96.40	-0.43	2.08	do- Acc	28.70	28.20	-0.51	0.11	35 Finsbury St. Manchester M2 2AF.					do- Acc	47.51	50.60	-1.14	0.48
do- Acc	54.26	54.16	-0.12	1.22	Medifund	144.00	146.00	-0.00	2.50		Overseas Growth Funds					do- Acc	104.80	131.10	-2.30	0.11	do- Acc	34.16	37.40	-1.24	0.55					
Inv Fund 5	105.20	112.00	-6.80	1.26	Medifund	55.00	57.49	-0.50	5.50		Public Growth	34.75	37.17	-1.71	0.46	do- Acc	106.80	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	45.16	54.82	+0.67	0.15					
do- Acc	105.20	112.00	-6.80	1.26	Medifund	55.00	57.49	-0.50	5.50		Second Cos	46.20	48.90	-0.10	5.42	do- Acc	57.20	60.00	-0.78	1.80	do- Acc	49.80	54.87	+0.07	0.15					
Inv Fund 5	122.50	104.60	-1.10	3.34	Medifund	266.70	283.40	-4.60	1.76		Second Cos	57.70	60.45	-0.45	5.42	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	44.90	49.87	+0.57	0.00					
do- Acc	122.50	104.60	-1.10	3.34	Medifund	266.70	283.40	-4.60	1.76		Smaller Cos	51.00	53.90	-0.45	4.65	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	35.65	37.35	-0.10	0.10					
Inv Fund 5	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-0.30	0.20		Smaller Cos	59.00	61.15	-0.45	1.04	do- Acc	108.60	114.90	-0.40	3.42	do- Acc	40.16	44.34	-0.10	0.10					
do- Acc	165.20	112.00	-5.20	1.26	Medifund	131.10	139.30	-																						

CANNON FUND MANAGERS		UK Growth Fund		UK High Income Fund		US Equity Fund		Global Income Fund		PE3 LTD. Dealings		PE3 LTD. Dealings		European Fund		North American Fund		Income Plus Fund		Global Bond Fund	
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0NB, TEL 092 88767		176.50	187.00	-0.50	170.00	182.00	16.50	92.25	98.48	-0.95	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38	162.70	285.00	+2.50	2.06	\$1,007	\$1,044.0 + 0.01
SE Asia	55.00	59.47	-0.01	1.00	56.00	59.47	0.37	65.00	65.00	-0.07	1.04	99.03	105.90	-0.50	4.38	195.10	270.60	+2.00	2.06	Penny Share	\$1,194.10 + 0.01
Growth	39.18	41.70	-0.18	1.00	38.70	41.70	0.37	50.22	53.30	+0.06	1.04	82.70	92.00	-0.57	4.38	152.70	56.07	-0.21	5.61		
Income	44.30	47.48	-0.38	1.00	43.00	47.48	0.47	48.72	52.25	+0.03	1.04	83.00	93.00	-0.50	4.38	158.00	62.65	-0.21	2.36		
EU, Far Eas	112.00	120.00	-0.08	1.00	108.00	120.00	0.00	112.00	120.00	-0.04	1.04	107.00	115.00	-0.04	4.38						
Far East	24.43	26.00	-0.57	1.00	23.00	26.00	0.37	24.73	26.50	-0.03	1.04	47.50	50.10	-0.54	4.38						
North American	67.00	71.00	-0.07	1.00	65.00	71.00	0.37	67.53	75.37	-0.52	1.04	92.51	99.21	-0.03	4.38						
Growth	11.00	11.97	-0.40	0.01	10.00	11.97	0.37	11.50	12.50	-0.03	1.04	10.00	11.50	-0.03	4.38						
Income	67.00	71.00	-0.07	1.00	65.00	71.00	0.37	67.53	75.37	-0.52	1.04	92.51	99.21	-0.03	4.38						
Entertainment Opp	65.00	64.73	+0.53	1.24	67.00	64.73	-0.27	68.00	64.73	-0.27	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
<b>GOVETT DOING UNIT MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>		<b>ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT</b>			
Shutterstock House, 4 Baltic Bridge Lane, London SE1 2BL, TEL 071 378 7075. Dealings: 071 388 0526		187.00	195.00	-0.05	180.00	195.00	0.00	187.00	195.00	-0.05	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38	162.70	285.00	+2.50	2.06	\$1,007	\$1,044.0 + 0.01
UK Currency	48.10	50.93	-0.50	1.00	47.00	50.93	0.37	48.70	50.93	-0.03	1.04	83.45	87.86	-0.60	4.38	152.70	56.07	-0.21	5.61	Penny Share	\$1,194.10 + 0.01
UK Curr/Growth	112.00	115.00	-0.03	1.00	110.00	115.00	0.00	112.00	115.00	-0.03	1.04	107.00	115.00	-0.03	4.38	158.00	62.65	-0.21	2.36		
<b>KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUST LTD</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>		<b>MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS</b>			
10 Finsbury Street, London EC3, TEL 071 456 6000, Telex 071 735 7354		176.50	187.00	-0.05	180.00	195.00	0.00	177.00	180.00	-0.05	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38	162.70	285.00	+2.50	2.06	\$1,007	\$1,044.0 + 0.01
Income Trust	67.00	71.00	-0.07	1.00	65.00	71.00	0.37	68.00	75.37	-0.52	1.04	92.51	99.21	-0.03	4.38						
Entertainment	65.00	64.73	+0.53	1.24	67.00	64.73	-0.27	68.00	64.73	-0.27	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>		<b>SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD</b>			
6 St Andrews Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA, TEL 031 558 2241/2242		176.50	187.00	-0.05	180.00	195.00	0.00	177.00	180.00	-0.05	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38	162.70	285.00	+2.50	2.06	\$1,007	\$1,044.0 + 0.01
City Reserve	54.50	56.00	-0.50	1.00	52.00	56.00	0.00	54.50	56.00	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Entertainment	52.00	54.00	-0.50	1.00	50.00	54.00	0.00	52.00	54.00	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity	185.50	190.00	-0.50	1.00	180.00	190.00	0.00	185.50	190.00	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
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Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
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Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
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Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
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Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
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Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.04	91.53	97.89	-0.60	4.38						
Equity Income	180.00	185.50	-0.50	1.00	175.00	185.50	0.00	180.00	185.50	-0											

<b>CAPE-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD</b>	071 573 7281	£144.90	154.10	+ 0.20	1.96	£144.90	154.10	+ 0.20	1.96
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Enquiries: 061 236 5083. Dealer: 061 236 5362									
<b>EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD</b>	071 573 7281	£144.90	154.10	+ 0.20	1.96	£144.90	154.10	+ 0.20	1.96
Whitton St, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 7QW.									
American Ctry	58.45	59.94	+ 0.54	0.14	58.45	59.94	+ 0.54	0.14	58.45
European Ctry	58.76	62.75	+ 0.23	0.14	58.76	62.75	+ 0.23	0.14	58.76
German Heron	42.48	45.34	+ 0.35	0.48	42.48	45.34	+ 0.35	0.48	42.48
Japan Ctry	59.99	64.16	+ 0.17	0.07	59.99	64.16	+ 0.17	0.07	59.99
Pacific Inst	96.36	103.05	- 0.37	2.59	96.36	103.05	- 0.37	2.59	96.36
Pacific Strategy	67.94	72.54	+ 0.52	0.24	67.94	72.54	+ 0.52	0.24	67.94
UK Inst	53.83	68.25	+ 0.32	0.24	53.83	68.25	+ 0.32	0.24	53.83
US Inst Ctry	42.84	46.55	+ 0.67	0.56	42.84	46.55	+ 0.67	0.56	42.84
UK Small Ctry	37.85	40.48	+ 0.65	0.53	37.85	40.48	+ 0.65	0.53	37.85
Palace	95.59	100.42	- 1.91	5.29	95.59	100.42	- 1.91	5.29	95.59
High Income	97.09	102.20	- 1.57	6.88	97.09	102.20	- 1.57	6.88	97.09
Inst of Inv Tax	100.00	105.00	- 1.00	5.00	100.00	105.00	- 1.00	5.00	100.00
Spec Inv Tax	80.00	84.43	- 1.43	4.18	80.00	84.43	- 1.43	4.18	80.00
Small American	12.51	14.85	- 0.37	1.84	12.51	14.85	- 0.37	1.84	12.51
Inst Growth	214.70	228.50	- 1.30	3.80	214.70	228.50	- 1.30	3.80	214.70
For Eastern	162.22	176.02	- 1.58	2.26	162.22	176.02	- 1.58	2.26	162.22
Inst Growth	234.40	249.40	- 1.50	3.80	234.40	249.40	- 1.50	3.80	234.40
36 London Exchange St, London									
E14 9GZ. 071 536 9668									
<b>GRE UNIT MANAGERS</b>	071 573 7281	£144.90	154.10	+ 0.20	1.96	£144.90	154.10	+ 0.20	1.96
36 London Exchange St, London									
E14 9GZ. 071 536 9668									
<b>SHRI CARY DIV</b>	071 573 7281	£37.31	36.04	- 2.43	7.18	£37.31	36.04	- 2.43	7.18
Capital Growth Trust									
Aster Small Ctry	71.12	75.66	- 2.64	0.07	71.12	75.66	- 2.64	0.07	71.12
North American	55.80	59.36	- 1.34	0.07	55.80	59.36	- 1.34	0.07	55.80
European	111.40	111.40	- 0.00	0.00	111.40	111.40	- 0.00	0.00	111.40
American Special	71.18	74.18	- 3.00	0.47	71.18	74.18	- 3.00	0.47	71.18
Inst Growth	326.51	326.51	- 0.00	0.00	326.51	326.51	- 0.00	0.00	326.51
Inst Recovery	219.78	225.06	- 5.27	5.16	219.78	225.06	- 5.27	5.16	219.78
Wwide Sector	234.80	244.80	- 6.40	3.81	234.80	244.80	- 6.40	3.81	234.80
General	26.27	27.05	- 0.03	0.28	26.27	27.05	- 0.03	0.28	26.27
Inst of Inv Tax	24.93	25.94	- 1.01	0.41	24.93	25.94	- 1.01	0.41	24.93
Inst Recovery	100.00	108.30	- 5.00	1.96	100.00	108.30	- 5.00	1.96	100.00
American	137.10	145.60	- 1.50	0.06	137.10	145.60	- 1.50	0.06	137.10
American Ctry	141.34	151.17	- 1.80	0.40	141.34	151.17	- 1.80	0.40	141.34
Japan	315.60	330.70	- 6.00	0.00	315.60	330.70	- 6.00	0.00	315.60
Japanese Special	166.80	177.40	- 4.30	0.24	166.80	177.40	- 4.30	0.24	166.80
American Inv	166.20	175.70	- 1.50	0.06	166.20	175.70	- 1.50	0.06	166.20
Master Acc	186.50	198.40	- 4.00	2.15	186.50	198.40	- 4.00	2.15	186.50
Pacific	79.40	208.40	- 12.00	0.04	79.40	208.40	- 12.00	0.04	79.40
Inst Growth	100.59	102.50	+ 0.20	0.24	100.59	102.50	+ 0.20	0.24	100.59
UK Growth	54.78	59.40	- 4.62	0.59	54.78	59.40	- 4.62	0.59	54.78
Inst Growth	100.59	102.50	+ 0.20	0.24	100.59	102.50	+ 0.20	0.24	100.59
Inst Growth	100.59	102.50	+ 0.20	0.24	100.59	102.50	+ 0.20	0.24	100.59
<b>PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST</b>	071 573 7281	£49.95	50.00	- 0.05	0.10	£49.95	50.00	- 0.05	0.10
High Stret, Henley on Thames.									
0494 571 5668									
<b>SG TOUCHE REMINGTON</b>	071 573 7281	£16.97	16.20	+ 0.07	0.10	£16.97	16.20	+ 0.07	0.10
High Stret, Henley on Thames.									
0494 571 245 1250									
<b>ECAV UNIT TRUST</b>	071 573 7281	£35.98	38.25	+ 0.47	0.47	£35.98	38.25	+ 0.47	0.47
1 White Oak Square, Swindon SN1 7 AG.									
0705 382041									
<b>Specimenes Rd</b>	071 573 7281	£55.00	58.51	- 0.51	0.57	£55.00	58.51	- 0.51	0.57

PAGE 108 VOLUMES										PAGE 109 VOLUMES									
Abbey Nail 1,400	Courtaulds 925	MEPC 995	Sainsbury 2,200	Brussels:	General 5,800.80	(-12.32)	FTSE 100	Period: Mar 92	Open: 2560.0	High: 2562.0	Low: 2553.0	Close: 2545.0	Volume: 770	Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 91.4% (day's range 91.2-91.4).					
ABG-Lyons 1,600	Enterpr Oil 919	Matik Spr 1,800	Soc & New 996	Dow Jones 3,248.43	(-7.16)	S&P Composite 413.08	(-0.74)	Previous open interest: 39006	Mar 92	2560.0	2562.0	2553.0	2545.0	770					
Anglian W 1,100	Euromut U 1,000	Midland 8k 1,200	Socil Power 3,400	Paris: CAC 501.69	(-0.77)	Tokyo:	General 5,800.80	(-12.32)	Jun 92	2550.0	2552.0	2550.0	2550.0	360					
Argyll Gp 2,600	Fiatos 1,500	NFC 608	Sears 4,100	Zurich: SKA Gen 465.6	(-0.9)	Mid-Japan 12/13/30	General 5,800.80	(-12.32)	Mar 92	2559.00	2561.00	2559.00	2559.00	150					
Arg Wiesen 309	Forte 2,100	NatWx Bk 4,900	Svnn Trend 626	Mid-Japan 12/13/30	General 5,800.80	(-12.32)	Three Month Sterling	Period: Mar 92	Open: 89.69	High: 89.73	Low: 89.66	Close: 89.68	150						
							Previous open interest: 202465	Mar 92	89.69	89.73	89.66	89.68	150						
							Jun 92	90.03	90.07	90.00	90.05	902							
							Sept 92	90.35	90.38	90.33	90.34	1396							

LONDON MARKET												NEW YORK MARKET																											
Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct						Calls						Putts						Series Feb May Aug Feb May Aug						Calls						Putts									
Ald Lyon	600	48	60	78	15	30	36	BAA	550	26	50	59	4	17	24	Abby Nat	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14
(789)	650	24	37	53	40	55	60	CST	600	3	24	35	35	42	24	Abbey Nat	300	7	14	19	16	21	24	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14
ASDA	34	8	-	3	-	-	-	BAT Ind	650	15	37	47	10	32	45	Amex	25	4	6	7	3	4	4	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14
(591)	43	36	-	5	-	-	-	BTC	700	3	18	28	50	65	75	BTC	30	26	4	5	6	8	9	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14
Bass	325	22	33	47	21	27	30	BTR	310	21	30	39	24	14	18	Bursdaya	360	28	33	36	10	15	22	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14
(520)	550	12	22	35	36	40	45	C409	420	13	15	23	16	30	33	C788	350	9	18	22	29	32	39	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14
BSCS	429	35	44	54	7	14	18	Cr Aero	280	11	21	32	12	35	42	Blue Cire	240	21	26	32	7	14	18	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14	Series Mar	260	18	25	29	7	10	14

Commodities												Treasury Bills (Dollars per \$100): 2 mos 10% : 3 mos 9% : 6 mos 8% : 12 mos 7%																
Courtauld	500	39	50	44	42	24	29	LASMO	220	15	24	28	24	13	16	Hawker	750	50	55	-	2	15	-	Mar	860-857	Nov	952-945	
GKN	550	14	26	26	32	39	49	55	(221)	240	5	13	16	13	7	16	(226)	800	20	25	-	-	-	-	May	866-855	Jan	974-965
GKN	300	23	28	32	34	18	23	Lucas	110	5	13	16	13	7	9	Hilldrup	160	13	17	20	8	15	16	Jul	911-910	Mar	994-980	
(TSI)	330	7%	24	34	36	42	48	(221)	120	2	7	11	8	13	16	(222)	177	4	-	-	-	-	-	Sep	922-920	Volume 3352		
Gold Met	900	58	85	101	20	29	39	P & O	420	9	24	33	9	32	36	Lomax	110	15	24	27	4	11	14					
(TSI)	950	31	51	75	44	53	63	(222)	460	16	9	18	12	62	62	(119)	120	9	18	22	10	16	21	C Cornwell	185-184.5	Oct	185-184.5	
ICI	1250	47	84	102	57	70	85	Pitkings	120	9	16	19	13	8	8	Midland	220	31	37	78	14			Sep	170-160	Dec	187-186.5	
(TSI)	1500	28	60	78	92	100	115	(224)	130	4	11	13	8	15	16	(223)	240	9	23	26	17	23	33	Mar	180-0.795	Mar	187-186.5	
Kingfisher	300	39	48	59	11	24	29	Prudential	220	9	15	26	3	11	15	Ramer	1050	97	105	132	27	47	60	May	180-0.795	May	186-0.840	
(TSI)	550	13	25	35	42	52	56	(224)	240	5	7	12	15	25	27	(209)	1100	37	80	103	49	55	85	Aug	184-0.836	Volume 515		
Ladbrooke	200	18	22	26	10	14	15	Carco	47	-	-	-	-	-	-	R-Boys	140	-	11	15	8	12	13					
HUI-PRO SOYA												WHITE SUGAR (FOB)																
HUI-PRO SOYA												RAW SUGAR (FOB)																
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# Clubs' relations cool after frozen cup-tie

## England forward pair stand down from club games

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

AFTER the postponement of today's league fixtures, England's leading clubs concentrate instead on the rescheduled fourth round of the Pilkington Cup, and nowhere with greater intensity than at Sudbury, the home of Wasps.

The spotlight rests, once again, on Wasps' opponents, Harlequins — in part because they have been joined by yet another potential England player, to the frustration of his former club, and in part because the fortnight's delay in playing a match which Wasps believed to be playable on the original cup date has permitted the return of the suspended Troy Coker.

Harlequins believe themselves to be much misunderstood. If Simon Dear should choose to leave Roslyn Park and contest a second-round place with Coker, Neil Edwards, Mark Russell and Steve Shortland, that, they say, is his decision.

Wasps are aching for the game and I hope the coaches of both clubs have told their players that discretion should be their watchword, regardless of the disagreement on a frozen January 25. These London derbies have occasionally got out of hand.

Harlequins are without Skinner, who favours a bruised shoulder, and Wasps are without Probyn. Both would probably have played had not England's game with France been just over the horizon.

On that topic David Sole, Scotland's captain, said yesterday: "While the internationals are very special and there is a lot more importance attached to them, I still enjoy playing club games, because, in many respects from my point of view, there is less pressure on me." Sole runs out for Edinburgh Academicals in their McEwan's league match at Jedburgh.

Harlequins are also without Bray, and field the young Challinor at stand-off half, but they still have a sparkling array of ten capped players, which should ensure the 1,000 tickets available at the Sudbury gate are snapped up.

There is no shortage of caps either at Northampton, where Bath, six-times cup winners in the last nine years, visit Northampton in the other first-division cup tie.

"We want to emulate Bath's cup and league dominance, and we cannot even start doing that until we have

Devon are paired at lock, but Hunter (wing) faces a late fitness test. Thurrock, looking to become the first junior club in the quarter-finals, hope to bring 2,000 supporters from Essex.

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David Miller, chief sports correspondent, argues that the Winter Olympics will never be the same again

## Albertville serves up a taste of Games to come

**I**t is going to take some remarkable performances by exceptional competitors, such as Heinzer, on the downhill, Nieminen, off the ski jumps, or Isabell and Paul Duchesnay, in the ice dancing, to bind as a coherent unit the XVI Winter Olympic Games that open today at Albertville, one of 13 competitive sites. Certainly, the French organisation is unlikely to bind the event and, in prospect, it is only television that will give the Games a collective identity.

There lies the danger and, possibly, a foretaste of the future. If the Games of Albertville, spread over 600 square miles, should prove to be successful — in spite of handicaps, natural and human, without parallel — there will be every reason in future for accepting a Games staged at multiple towns and villages.

In other words, regional Games, television orientated, rather than an event traditionally hosted by a single city. In February 1992, Albertville is no more than close to where the new TGV conveniently halts at Moutiers. It

is almost the only convenient thing about these Games.

After the decision of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to award the 1980 Winter Games to the cramped and incompetent upstate New York winter resort of Lake Placid, there was the bold and satisfactory venture into new territory at Sarajevo — a facility now sadly in decline, in common with the country — and then the first big-city Winter Games at Calgary.

In 1994, tiny Lillehammer in Norway, a picturesque throwback to earlier times, threatens to be as inconvenient to sponsors and other ticket-holders, and to the media, as Albertville. Next, in 1998, comes the almost-big city of Nagano in western Japan.

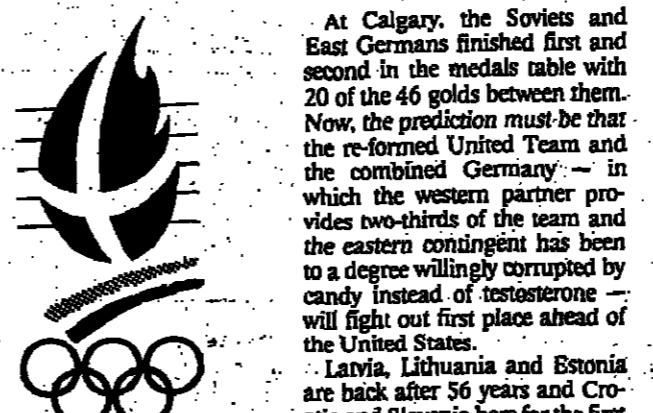
What Albertville is likely to do is give substance to the suggestion this week by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the IOC, that future Games can embrace two nations, providing an alternative to the few leading cities with facilities such as Salt Lake, Lausanne/Crans could combine with Geneva/Chamonix; Gar-

isch with Innsbruck; Finland, which has no mountains, with Östersund in Sweden; and so on.

That, at least for the Winter Games, can mean the beginning of the end of the Olympic ethic, that special chemistry of taking part, the sense of being involved in something unique as demonstrated so eloquently at Calgary by Judd Bankert, the first Olympic competitor from Guam, at the back of the field in Nordic skiing.

The fulfilment of Samaranch's prediction will mean a simultaneous but separated gathering of world championships, linked only by television. I shall be glad to be retired, happy to have experienced what seems likely to be the last of the conventional Winter Games before they were compromised by their own success.

It is not only the disparate nature of the Albertville Games that will make them different. These are the first to experience the demise of the two great national powers of winter sports, the Soviet Union and German Democratic Republic, broken by the collapse of communism.



While the two totalitarian states were understandably strengthened by recourse to drug-enhancement, their formidable achievements were primarily the reward of national fanaticism, of a socio-political incentive that raised sport to previously unattained levels. Never again, however, will coaches have such a compulsory hold on their charges.

At Calgary, the Soviets and East Germans finished first and second in the medals table with 20 of the 46 golds between them. Now, the prediction must be that the re-formed United Team and the combined Germany — in which the western partner provides two-thirds of the team and the eastern contingent has been to a degree willingly corrupted by candy instead of testosterone — will fight out first place ahead of the United States.

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are back after 56 years and Croatia and Slovenia here for the first time. These are innovative Games in many ways.

So who are the stars who can rise above the anguished screams of those irrevocably stuck in traffic jams? The surest here, I would say, must be Alberto Tomba, surprising victor in Calgary, whose only failure then was to ask for a date with Katarina Witt. The German lady turned him down but no one seems likely to resist him on the slope this time.

His victory in the Lauberhorn slalom at Wengen was his fifth in

eight World Cup races this season, and the teeming horde of Italian supporters will be pouring over the passes these next few days to augment the chaos.

Franz Heinzer, of Switzerland, is favourite for the men's downhill, but the reports yesterday, after the first practice session, suggest that the French, such as Picard and Alphand, may have something to say on the new Belleville course.

Then there is the local heroine, the adopted child from Reunion Island, Surya Bonaly. Her jumps are phenomenal, her style less impressive, but she is going to pack the figure skating stadium in Albertville.

There is also Dan Jansen, the youngster whose sister died the morning of the 500 metres speed skating in Calgary. Jansen fell twice before and after returning to Milwaukee for her funeral. He is back now as the favourite.

Toni Nieminen could become the youngest gold medal winner, at 16, in the history of the Winter Games, and is the arch exponent of the new V-style of ski jumping.

Britain, for once in a while, can legitimately look forward to one or two medals. The exciting Will O'Reilly is favourite in the short-track speed skating one of the Games' most dramatic events. Mark Trott and his men might take two medals on the bobsleigh run, while Jilly Curry is optimistic about her chances in the new freestyle skiing event. The veteran, Davina Galica, is making a comeback at 47 in the unofficial speed skiing.

## Tout sees glint of gold at the end of the ice tunnel

By CHRIS MOORE

IT IS little wonder that bobsledding has been described as the ultimate sporting madness — a helter-skelter chase for the gold medal down a mile-long tunnel of ice with out brakes.

Wilson Smith, the eccentric Englishman accredited with inventing the sport in St Moritz in 1899, soon found the need to attach a rake to the back of his prototype sled.

Bobsledding has been an Olympic event since the inaugural Winter Games at Chamonix in 1924, where the British quartet, driven by Ralph Broome, won the silver medal.

Twelve years later, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Frederic McEvoy won the four-man bronze. But it was not until 1964 that Britain struck gold for the only time in Olympic competition, as Tony Nash and his brakeman, Robin Dixon, took the two-man title in Innsbruck.

A year later the same pair won the world championship in St Moritz but that was the extent of British success. For the last 27 years, no British crew has finished in the top three in Olympic, world or European competition.

It is against that background that Mark Tout, Nick Phipps and Sean Olsson, the three drivers in the British team sponsored by Stella Artois, mount their challenge at La Plagne next week.

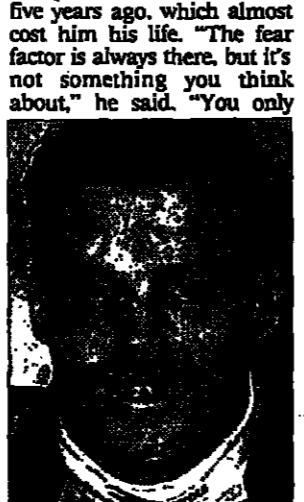
Tout's impressive showing in the World Cup this season — he is third in the two-man and second in the four-man — earned him pre-selection to drive the Great Britain 1 bob in both Olympic events. Phipps, at 39 the veteran of

the 12-man team, and the fast-emerging Olsson, aged 24 and twice a winner on the European junior circuit this season, will race off for the other spot.

Given his form and achievements this season, which includes sixth place in last week's two-man race at the European championships in Konigssee, Tout and his crew of Paul Field, George Farrell and Lenny Paul represent one of Britain's best hopes for a medal at the Olympics.

"There is no doubt in my mind that if we get our act together, particularly in the four-man event, we will be there or thereabouts," Tout, aged 31 and an army corporal in the 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, said.

Scar tissue from his temple to above the right ear remains a visible legacy of an horrific 85mph crash at Lake Placid five years ago, which almost cost him his life. "The fear factor is always there, but it's not something you think about," he said. "You only



Tout: impressive

have to look in a guy's eyes at the top of the track after you've crashed, and you know whether he wants to go down again."

As always, the Swiss and Germans, primarily in the shape of Gustav Weder and Wolfgang Hoppe, are favourites for the gold medals.

Hoppe, aged 34, is the most successful bobber still competing, with 24 medals in Olympic, world and European competition, including 11 golds, nine silver and four bronze. Only Wolfgang Zimmerer and Erich Scharenz, with a total of 27 each, have won more than the world four-man champion from Oberhof, who was the double Olympic champion at Sarajevo in 1984.

His incentive on the new 1,500 metre track at La Plagne will be to equal Meinhard Nehmer as the only driver to win three Olympic golds.

Weder, aged 30, began bobbing as a brakeman in 1984, four years after Tout. But he won the world two-man title at Cortina in 1989, and the following year became the first Swiss driver since Fritz Feierabend in 1947 to pull off the world double at the centenary championships in St Moritz.

"They must still be the two the rest have to beat," Horst Hoernlein, the British coach who, before unification, was East Germany's head coach for 17 years, said.

The two-man event will be run next weekend, February 15 and 16, with the four-man competition on February 21 and 22. There are two runs on each day on the new track, which has 19 curves, 11 of which are right-handers.



Working out: Conway in training at the ice rink in Albertville yesterday

## France's hopes resting with the Duchesnays

By JOHN HENNESSY

PATRIOTIC fervour will reach fever pitch in the Olympic ice rink at Albertville next week as the world ice dance champions, Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay, seek to give France their first gold medal for 60 years.

A groin injury to Paul Duchesnay caused him and his sister to withdraw from the European championships in Lausanne, last month and, except for a trial run in a gala, their free programme is an unknown quantity.

Known to be based on the musical *West Side Story*, and choreographed by Christopher Dean, now Isabelle's husband, it should be a guarantee of exceptional quality.

There seems to be only two challengers to the Duchesnays, and French hopes. Both are from Moscow: Marina Klimova and Maia Usova, partnered by their respective husbands, Sergei Ponomarenko and Alexander Zhulin.

Their performances in Lausanne spell danger; Klimova and Ponomarenko were twice world champions before the French siblings inspired by Dean, dislodged them last year.

Kurt Browning, three times in successive seasons world champion for Canada, is the favourite for the men's title on the strength of that achievement alone, since little has been seen of him this season because of injuries.

That would normally hang a big question mark over a skater but much the same situation obtained last year and he came through when it mattered.

Viktor Petrenko, second in the world last year, seems to have gone off the boil, finishing third in the CIS championship and deprived of his European title by Petr Barina.

## The Games on television

GONE are the days when skiing was served once a week with Sunday afternoon tea. *Ski Sunday* has evolved into a commitment to winter sport and some 90 hours of coverage, much of it live, will be televised by the BBC from the Winter Olympics over the next two weeks (Denis Tingay writes).

Anchoring the event for the BBC is Desmond Lynham while the commentary team will be led by David Coleman. David Vine, the veteran presenter of *Ski Sunday*, will be guiding viewers down hills and over jumps while Christopher Dean adds an expert touch to the figure skating.

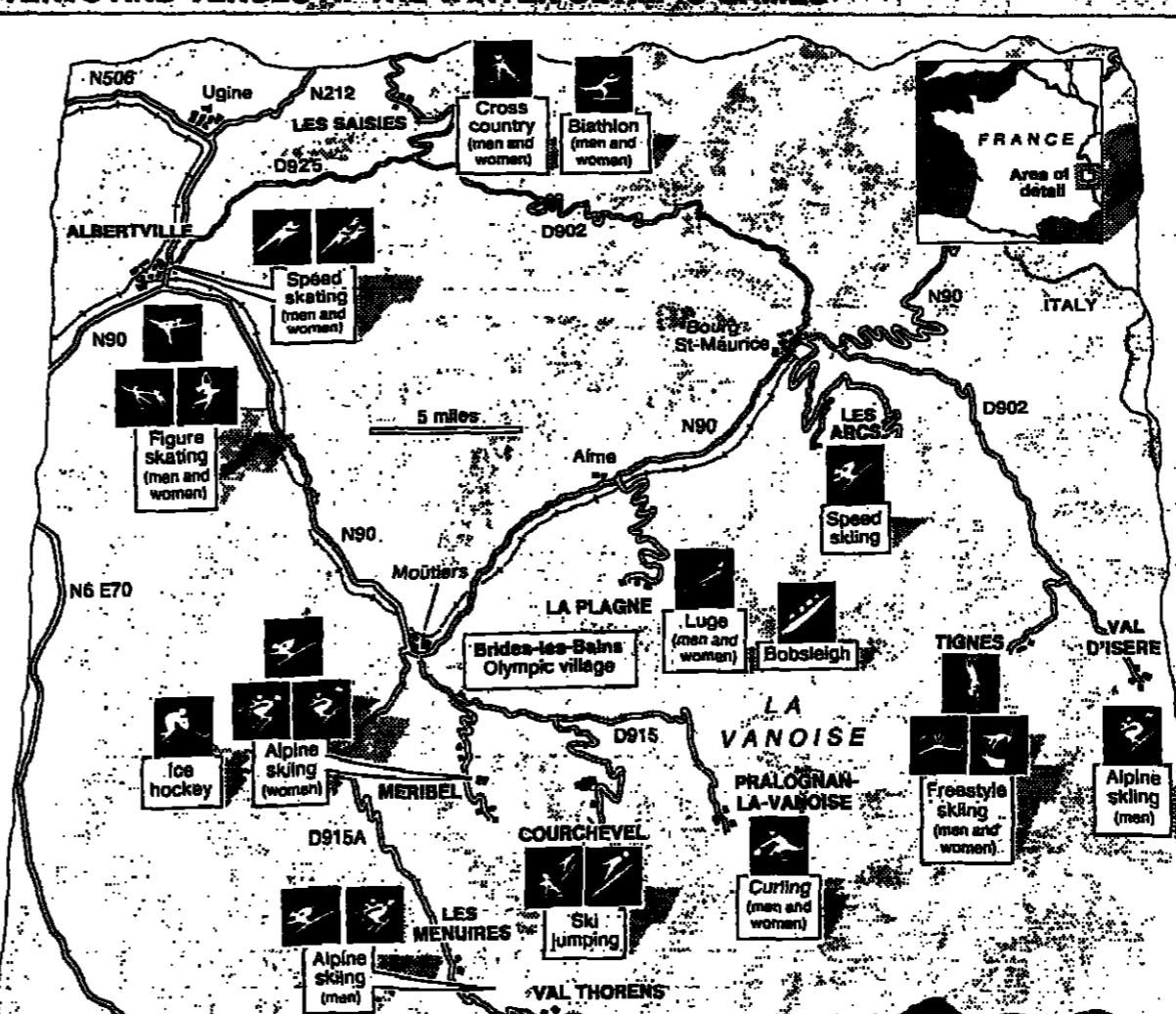
It begins in Grandstand today, when the opening ceremony will be live on BBC1. From then on, coverage will encompass the 16 days of competition: *Grandstand* on Saturdays and Sundays will be dedicated to the Games, as will sections of *Sportsnight* and *Match of the Day*.

Eurosport has opted for saturation coverage 24 hours a day. Eurosport's coverage opens at 8.00 this morning with a preview, *The Road to Albertville*, and the first live action is at midday with the ice hockey between France and Canada.

### GUIDE TO THE EVENTS AND VENUES AT THE WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

**Alpines GMT**  
Today  
15.00: Opening ceremony  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool B: France v USA; Czechoslovakia v Norway; CIS v Switzerland.  
February 10  
09.00: Cross country, women's 15km.  
09.15: Nordic combined, men's 10km.  
10.00: Freestyle skiing, men's and women's bullet heats  
11.15: Alpine slalom, men's downhill  
12.30: Ski jumping, 120m.  
13.00: Speed skating, women's 1500m.  
13.30: Ice dancing, original programme  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool B: France v CIS; Norway; Czechoslovakia; Canada v Switzerland; Poland v Italy.  
February 11  
09.00: Luge, women's singles.  
09.00: Alpine slalom, men's and women's combined slalom  
09.30: Nordic combined, 90m slalom  
10.00: Alpine slalom, women's 75m.  
10.30: Figure skating, pairs free programme  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool B: CIS v Norway; France v Czechoslovakia; Canada v Switzerland; Poland v Italy.  
February 12  
09.00: Alpine slalom, men's 10km.  
09.00: Luge, women's singles  
10.00: Freestyle skiing, moguls heats.  
11.15: Alpine slalom, women's combined slalom  
12.30: Nordic combined, 18km  
13.00: Alpine slalom, women's 1500m.  
13.30: Speed skating, women's 3000m.  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool B: France v Norway; CIS v Czechoslovakia; Canada v Switzerland; Poland v Italy.  
February 13  
09.00: Cross country, men's 10km  
09.00: Alpine slalom, men's and women's slalom

February 18  
06.30: Cross country, men's 40km.  
07.00: Nordic combined, men's 10km.  
08.00 and 13.00: Alpine skiing, men's giant slalom  
09.45: Speed skating  
11.00 and 17.00: Curling  
12.00: Alpine slalom, men's 10km  
13.00: Speed skating, men's 1000m.  
17.30: Short track speed skating heats  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey ranking game, two quarter-finals  
February 19  
09.00: Bobsleigh, women's 3 x 75m  
09.30: Luge, men's doubles  
12.30: Ski jumping, 120m.  
13.00: Speed skating, women's 1500m.  
13.30: Ice dancing, original programme  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool A: France v CIS; Switzerland v Norway; Canada v Czechoslovakia; Poland v Italy.  
February 20  
08.00: Bobsleigh, men's  
08.45: Freestyle skiing, aerials heats  
09.00: Cross country, men's 15km  
11.15: Alpine slalom, women's downhill  
12.30: Nordic combined, 90m slalom  
13.00: Cross country, women's 10km  
13.30: Speed skating, men's 500m  
18.30: Figure skating, men's free programme  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool A: Sweden v Poland; United States v Finland; Germany v United States; Italy v Switzerland.  
February 21  
07.00: Bobsleigh, four-man  
08.00: Curling  
09.00: Alpine slalom, women's 75m.  
10.00: Nordic combined, 90m slalom  
11.00 and 17.00: Curling  
12.00: Alpine slalom, men's 10km  
13.00: Freestyle skiing, aerials heats  
13.30: Speed skating, men's 1500m.  
18.30: Figure skating, women's free programme  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool A: France v Norway; CIS v Czechoslovakia; Canada v Switzerland; Poland v Italy.  
February 22  
08.00: Bobsleigh, four-man  
09.00: Cross country, men's 30km  
09.30: Speed skating, semi-finals  
11.00 and 17.00: Curling  
12.00: Alpine slalom, men's 10km  
13.00: Freestyle skiing, aerials heats  
13.30: Speed skating, men's 3000m relay.  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool A: France v Norway; CIS v Czechoslovakia; Canada v Switzerland; Poland v Italy.  
February 23  
08.00: Bobsleigh, four-man  
09.00: Cross country, women's 30km  
09.30 and 13.00: Alpine skiing, men's giant slalom  
11.15: Speed skating, heats  
12.00: Nordic combined, 90m slalom  
13.00: Alpine slalom, women's super giant slalom  
14.00: Curling, heats  
15.00: Figure skating, gala exhibition  
15.30: Short track speed skating, women's 500m; men's 5000m relay.  
12.15, 16.15 and 20.15: Ice hockey  
Pool A: France v Norway; CIS v Czechoslovakia; Canada v Switzerland; Poland v Italy.



Winter playground: the Haute Savoie region of France plays host to the Games for the next 16 days

Tomba's attempt to retain his titles can earn him a place in Olympic history

## Heinzer leads on downhill path

BY DAVID POWELL

AT ANY other Winter Olympics, the staging of the men's downhill on the opening weekend might leave the rest of Alpine skiing vulnerable to anti-climax. But Albertville is safe. When the downhill is over, we shall find out whether these really are the Albertville Olympics.

Albert Tomba, the sport's biggest personality, looks ripe to become the first male skier in Olympic history to retain an Alpine title. Tomba, champion in two of the five disciplines, has been showing outstanding form, and if he loses either the slalom or giant slalom it will be an upset.

But first the downhill in Val d'Isère tomorrow. If there is a skier in better form than Tomba, it is Franz Heinzer. The Swiss is on a roll, winning the last three World Cup downhills and breaking Kitzbühel's fearsome Hahnenkamm piste record. He is the clear favourite, stronger than Klammer in 1976 and Killy eight years earlier.

Aged 29, success came to Heinzer late in life, but now it is here, he is not letting go. His record was nothing special until last year; then, in his tenth season, he became World Cup and world champion. In this most dangerous of disciplines Heinzer is the master of the moment but, in a task where split-second error can be irretrievably expensive, nothing is taken for granted. If Heinzer falls, any one of a dozen could pounce.

At the top of the list is A. J. Kitz, the New Yorker who won the World Cup downhill in Val d'Isère in December. He was second to Heinzer in Kitzbühel and is arguably America's best ever, better even than Bill Johnson, the 1984 champion.

Although Kitz won in Val d'Isère he will not be on the same piste tomorrow. The Olympic course has been designed especially for the occasion by Bernhard Russi, the 1972 champion. It does not have Kitz's approval. *Le Face de Bellavard* is a twisting downhill, not a fast one, giving the technical skiers more of a chance. "It is not the best test for a downhill for the Olympics," Kitz said.

None the less, within 15 seconds the skiers will reach 80mph. At the Catherine Bump they will fly 120ft into



the air at 50mph. Halfway down is a 90 turn on a convex slope — "like skiing on the outside of a crystal ball" according to Billy Kidd, the racer turned television commentator.

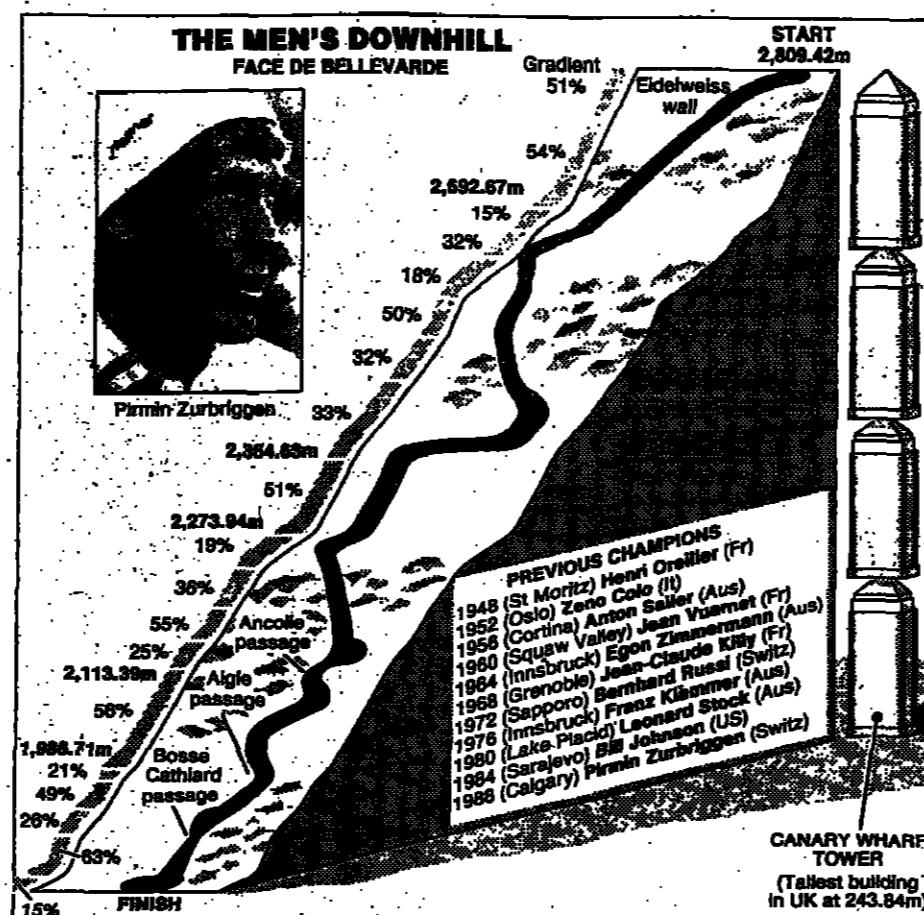
A succession of twists and turns follow into L'Ancolie Passage, a test of a skier's ability to carve a turn through a narrow section. For those who misjudge it, the padding on the rock face should break the fall. Before the finish is another bump which takes the skiers through the air for 150ft — "like skiing over a frozen waterfall," Kidd says.

Heinzer's other main challengers are Markus Wasmeier, of Germany, winner of the World Cup race in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, and second to Heinzer in Wengen a fortnight ago; Leonhard Stock, of Austria, 12 years after his Olympic triumph at Lake Placid; and Patrick Ortlieb, the Austrian who stands between Heinzer and Kitz in the season's World Cup standings. The British contribution is likely to be peripheral.

The Games will be well into their second week before it is Tomba's turn. He will carry the Italian flag at the opening ceremony today, then shelter from public gaze by training for a week in Italy, returning on the eve of the giant slalom on Tuesday week. The slalom follows three days later on the closing weekend.

Paul Accola, the Swiss leader of the overall World Cup, and two Norwegians, Finn-Christian Jagge and Ole-Christian Furuseth, are Tomba's most likely challengers.

If Tomba is to become the first male alpine skier to retain an Olympic title, he must hope that two other 1988 champions, Franck Picard



in the super-giant slalom, and Hubert Strolz in the combined, do not beat him to it. Both are scheduled to appear before Tomba but neither has been prominent this season.

While Heinzer and Tomba appear difficult to beat, the luminaries of the women's circuit have been struggling of late. Forecasting for Meribel, where the five women's Alpine events take place, is difficult. Vreni Schneider, Switzerland's Olympic slalom and giant slalom champion, has failed to finish two of her last four slalom races, and Petra Kronberger, the overall World Cup champion, has not finished in the top three in her last 12 races.

Reputation keeps Schneider as favourite to win her two disciplines while Kronberger, the downhill and slalom champion, knows that the ones to beat in that event are Karja Seizinger, of Germany, and Sabine Günther, her compatriot. The women's downhill is on *La Roche du Fer*, the Iron Rock. Whether Kronberger is still the iron maiden is in considerable doubt.



Heinzer: master of the moment in the downhill

## Nieminen rules the new wave

BY JOHN HENNESSY

WITH uncanny timing, Finland has produced a boy ski jumper tailor-made to repeat Matti Nykänen's triple gold success at Calgary four years ago. The Flying Finn this time is Toni Nieminen, aged 16, who took the World Cup lead on December 1 and has held it ever since.

At Courchevel, he has every chance of winning both the 90-metre (normal hill) and 120-metre (large hill) individual titles, and to lead Finland to the team gold on the 120-metre hill.

Nieminen was one of the first to switch to the V-style, which has dominated the season's contests, caught several champions by surprise, and split the sport into pro and anti-V camps. Using the body as a virtual parachute, young pretenders found they could attain maximum lift, and reach out to distances which previously required a long apprenticeship.

Typical of the new wave is Andreas Goldberger, aged 19, the first from Austria to convert. Last season he was jumping in the Europa Cup, the sport's second division; he goes the Winter Olympics as a member of Austria's six-man team with solid medal potential.

The classicists, however, are not admitting defeat. Among the leading men who have tried, without success, to convert is Jens Weißflog, who won Olympic gold for East Germany at Sarajevo in 1984. Still a prodigious performer, he withdrew from the World Cup in mid-season to mend an injury, and also to attempt to come to terms with the new style. He failed in the latter, and will present himself at Courchevel using the more graceful take-off that has made this sport a thing of beauty.

"A good jumper in classical style can still win a medal," Weißflog says. "The picture will be clearer after tomorrow and the 90-metre individual event. The 120-metre team competition is five days later, with the large hill individual event on February 16."

## O'Reilly heads challenge

BY MICHAEL COLEMAN

THESE are heady days for British speed skating. Habitually cast at the Winter Olympics as carrying the spears while the Dutch, the Americans and others carried off the medals, Britain now has two, or perhaps three medals, in its sights.

This transformation flows from the International Olympic Committee's decision to admit short-track racing into the Games. Four years ago the new discipline successfully passed the probationary test of a demonstration sport in Calgary and is now included as a fully-qualified competitive event; in fact, four events.

And a rip-roaring, blood-curdler of a sport it is. Whereas the traditional race is not a race at all, but rather a time-trial with a clock as the enemy, those on the short track have to apply tactical nous as well as explosive challenges for position in the restricted elbow-room of a 110-metre lap.

It is in this exciting environment that Britain has unearthed a world champion in Wilf O'Reilly, son of an Irish mother and West Indian father. O'Reilly, aged 26, proved in Sydney last year that his Olympic victory in Calgary had been no fluke.

Now do British hopes end

there. Max Jasper won a silver in Sydney, and a relay team led by O'Reilly brought home the bronze.

The principal opposition seems likely to come from South Korea and Japan. There is no British competitor among the women, where according to Ken Pendry, father of British short-track skating, "the Chinese are incredible, but beware those big, strong Canadians".

On the outside, long-track rink, the star attractions among the women are expected to be Gunda Niemann (née Kleemann), once of East Germany, and Bonnie Blair, of the United States. The American thrives on shorter

distances, the German over 1,500 metres and beyond. A titanic struggle is expected in the men's sprint (500 metres), involving the same two nations — Uwe-Jens Mey, the German holder, and Dan Jansen. Mey recorded 36.43sec in Davos last month, improving his own world record by two-hundredths of a second. Jansen, for his part, has sped round the fast Oval in an unofficial 36.26sec, giving a speed of nearly 31mph.

Over the longer distances, Johann Olav Koss has an army of Norwegian well-wishers: He was second to Falke Zandstra of The Netherlands, in the European championships last month, but the aficionados do not take that result too seriously. Koss is more at home than most on "poorice" (outdoors), as at Albertville.

As one British observer reports, Koss had the look at Heerlen, where the European championships were staged, not of a serious competitor but of a man undergoing training with a view to peaking at the Olympics a month later. He is that calculating kind of man.

The short-track competition in the opening programme is on February 18; the outdoor events begin on the 400 metres track tomorrow with the women's 3,000 metres.



O'Reilly: medal chance

## Swedes to have a high time

WHILE 12 countries again compete in the Olympic tournament, which is being staged at Meribel, the format of the competition has changed (Norman de Mesquita writes).

After the round-robin section, in which there will be two pools of six, eight teams will advance — four from each pool — to the later stages, which will be run on a knockout basis.

Games will be three periods of 20 minutes and those ending level will have a ten-minute overtime period, in which the first goal will decide the winners. During the knockout stages, penalty shots will be used if there is no further score in overtime.

Sweden, the world champions, are favourites to the professional ranks.

the Commonwealth of Independent States still have an abundance of talent. Olympic champions, when known as the Soviet Union, their only weakness could be goal-tending.

Other likely medal winners include Finland, who took silver in 1988, and Czechoslovakia, although both have lost leading players to the NHL. France, the host country, will find the going hard; they play in the opening game against Canada today.

One other factor that might influence the outcome is the altitude of Meribel. At 1,700m above sea level, it will put a premium on fitness and stamina.

POOL A: Germany, Finland, Sweden, Poland, Italy, United States. POOL B: Canada, Cze, Czechoslovakia, France, Norway, Switzerland.

## Curry returning to a happy hunting ground

BY DAVID POWELL

THE French will presumably be better prepared for Jilly Curry this time. It was in France two years ago that Curry first skied to prominence on the World Cup circuit. The British are not noted for their success in skiing, and the French were caught out by being guided by reputation.

No one could find a tape of the National Anthem so there was Curry, at the top of the podium, with the German anthem playing. At least they found the right flag. "I checked that out and it looked wonderful," she said.

The name of Curry is set to rise again in Olympic sport. Sixteen years after John took gold in men's figure skating, Jilly is trying for a medal in freestyle skiing. It comprises three disciplines: ballet (a routine set to music); aerials (one spectacular somersault from a specially prepared jump); and moguls, a descent down a steep, humped course. Only moguls has full medal status this time, but aerials and ballet are set to follow at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer.

Curry, who has won most of her medals in the combined event, is a contender in the aerials, at which she won a World Cup silver medal in December, and an outsider for a bona fide Olympic medal in moguls. Aged 29 and the daughter of an Olympic steeplechaser, she is in form. At the last event before the Games, in Oberjoch, Germany, last weekend, she won a World Cup gold medal in the combined event.

She fulfilled a long-standing ambition to beat the normally invincible World Cup champion, Conny Kissing, from Switzerland. In Curry's two previous gold medal performances, Kissing was either injured or lacked fitness.

Moguls consists of one run of free skiing on a steep, heavily moguled course. The course is 200 to 250 metres long and has a gradient of between 27 and 35 degrees. Two upright jumps are incorporated into the run, which is timed. Seven judges score



Curry: contender

## British success

In the 14 Winter Olympics since 1924, Britain has won six gold medals, four silvers and 10 bronze. The gold medals came in 1936 (ice hockey, Garmisch), 1952 (Jeanette Altwegg, figure skating, Oslo), 1964 (Nash and Dixon, two-man bobsleigh, Innsbruck), 1976 (John Curry, figure skating, Innsbruck), 1980 (Robin Cousins, figure skating, Lake Placid) and 1984 (Torvill and Dean, ice dance, Sarajevo).

Three silver medals have been won by figure skaters, one in bobsleighing. Skating, by far Britain's most successful Winter Olympic sport, has brought six bronze medals. Two more came in the luge and one each from bobsleighing and ice hockey.

### Old and young

At the age of 63, Kalevi Hakkila, a Finnish speed skier, will be the oldest competitor in the Games. Hakkila can take heart from the performances of Oscar Swahn, a Swede, who won a silver medal for shooting running deer in the 1920 Olympics at the age of 72.

Krisztina Czako, a Hungarian figure skater, will be the youngest competitor at the Games at the age of 13. The International Skating Union waived a minimum age requirement of 14.

### Large scale

The 1992 Winter Games will be the biggest. At the 13 venues, 2,196 athletes from the 65 competing nations will take part in 14 sports and 65 competitions and 330 gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded. Organisers say they have sold 750,000 of the 800,000 tickets.

### Lost coaching

The British biathlon team has been training without their main coach for a week. Lubos Hacke, a Czechoslovak, had to return to Prague last Sunday after his wife had been involved in a car crash.

### 1988 medal table

	6	6	6	20
Soviet Union	11	10	10	31
East Germany	9	9	9	27
Denmark	4	4	4	12
Austria	4	4	4	12
West Germany	4	4	4	12
Netherlands	4	4	4	12
Finland	4	4	4	12
Sweden	4	4	4	12
United States	4	4	4	12
New Zealand	2	2	2	6
Canada	2	2	2	6
Italy	0	0	0	0
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0

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## Botham makes cameo appearance with bat

# Second-day points go to N Zealand as they strive for lead

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN WELLINGTON

JUST IN case the heady experience of two consecutive victories had dulled the memory, England were sternly reminded at the Basin Reserve yesterday of the long traditions of Test cricket in New Zealand.

The second day of this final Test match brought 170 runs from 94 overs. The cricket was attritional, much of it unambitious. At different stages, it was possible to believe both sides had nothing beyond a draw in mind. It was redolent of England's last tour here, in 1987-8.

It cannot be denied, however, that this was New Zealand's most satisfying day of the series. For them, every morsel stolen from England's laden table is to be savoured.

What must also be considered is that this pitch, although deadly slow, is dry and crusty. It is turning already and could present more problems on the last two days. A first-innings lead may be decisive.

It was a considerable achievement for a raw New Zealand attack to take the last five England wickets yester-

day for 66. It was equally admirable that John Wright and Andrew Jones, under pressure after the customary loss of an early wicket, should bat through to the close and complete their second century stand of the series.

DeFreitas is not, as yet, in any doubt for the World Cup, where he has an important part to play, but the perceived role of Reeve is no longer plain. While his bowling has been shrewd, his batting has developed a form of stoicless desperation, so that he is barely recognisable as the man capable of playing so innovatively in county cricket.

Yesterday's innings of 18 was his lowest in four Test starts but, at 167 minutes, his longest. His 124 runs for England have occupied more than nine hours and he has apparently encountered a mental barrier, far from exclusive to him, which prevents him risking his wicket by playing naturally.

Although the team target was upwards of 350, pure negative batting was not what was required here and, on a still and somnolent morning, with Mount Victoria looming impossibly over this attractive ground, the crowd might easily have settled for a pre-lunch nap but for the arrival of the old legend himself.

Wellington's morning newspaper carried an advertisement for the cricket yesterday. It simply read: "Botham at the Basin Starts 10.30." Within 20 minutes of that time, Test cricket's latest man to reach 100 Tests caps was marching in, applauded every step of his way. The expectation was out of all proportion, of course, and after clubbing two rapid fours, Botham played quietly for 50 minutes before mustining a characteristic off-drive.

His day was not over. He took a sharp, instinctive catch, head-high at third slip, to dismiss Hardwick in Lawrence's third over, and when he came on to bowl in the last hour he got a few long-hops out of his system before locating his length and his inswing to trouble both batsmen.

Tufnell tried everything, 17 overs of experimentation but the turn was too slow to be penetrative and Wright was at his most immovable. In what is likely to be his final Test (though we have heard that before), one of the sport's most personable characters has already defied England for three-and-a-half hours.

Just as they did when they arrived in Calcutta to play

England won toss

ENGLAND: First Innings						
"G A Gooch b Patel	30	42	6s	Mr	Balls	103
Turned through gate - well forward	3	0				
A J Stewart b Morrison	107	12	0	320	243	
David Hockley b length ball	43	5	2	55	40	
Beaten by quicker ball	6	1	0	31	31	
R A Smith c Rutherford b Patel	6	1	0	41	43	
Clipped to short mid-wicket	50	5	0	167	123	
A J Stewart b DeFreitas	18	0	0	46	48	
Edged attempt cut	3	0	0	3	23	
D A Reeve c Latham b Sri's	2	0	0	11	6	
Produced in silly mid-off						
D V Lawrence c Rutherford b Cairns						
Edged to off						
I T Botham c Cairns b Sri's	15	2	0	51	46	
Mistimed drive to mid-off	18	0	0	46	48	
R C Russell bowled by Morrison	15	2	0	51	46	
David Hockley b Sri's	15	2	0	51	46	
P A J DeFreitas bowled by Morrison	3	0	0	3	23	
Beaten by off-cut	2	0	0	11	6	
P C R Tufnell not out						
Extras (b 4, lb 12, nb 11)	27					
Total (462 runs, 118.1 overs)	325					
FALL OF WICKET: 1-Botham (50); 2-Lawrence (100); 3-Smith (100); 4-Lamb (100); 5-DeFreitas (100); 6-Hockley (100); 7-Botham (100); 8-Lawrence (100); 9-Smith (100); 10-Hockley (100); 11-DeFreitas (100); 12-Lawrence (100); 13-Botham (100); 14-Lawrence (100); 15-DeFreitas (100); 16-Lawrence (100); 17-DeFreitas (100); 18-Lawrence (100); 19-DeFreitas (100); 20-Lawrence (100); 21-DeFreitas (100); 22-Lawrence (100); 23-DeFreitas (100); 24-Lawrence (100); 25-DeFreitas (100); 26-Lawrence (100); 27-DeFreitas (100); 28-Lawrence (100); 29-DeFreitas (100); 30-Lawrence (100); 31-DeFreitas (100); 32-Lawrence (100); 33-DeFreitas (100); 34-Lawrence (100); 35-DeFreitas (100); 36-Lawrence (100); 37-DeFreitas (100); 38-Lawrence (100); 39-DeFreitas (100); 40-Lawrence (100); 41-DeFreitas (100); 42-Lawrence (100); 43-DeFreitas (100); 44-Lawrence (100); 45-DeFreitas (100); 46-Lawrence (100); 47-DeFreitas (100); 48-Lawrence (100); 49-DeFreitas (100); 50-Lawrence (100); 51-DeFreitas (100); 52-Lawrence (100); 53-DeFreitas (100); 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# THE TIMES

# SPORT

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

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- RACING 28, 29
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## Wasmeier gathers medal momentum

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Val d'Isère Markus Wasmeier has already laid down his challenge to the world champion, Franz Heinzer, and the other speed specialists for the blue riband event of the Olympic Games, the men's downhill, tomorrow. And after training yesterday, which he dominated for the second successive day, the message was clear: he is in gold medal form.

Wasmeier demonstrated that he is the early master of the Bellevue piste, a dramatically twisting course created specially for tomorrow's race and ideally suited to the

German's technical skills. Heinzer, of Switzerland, who arrived in Val d'Isère the worthy favourite after winning four of this season's six downhills, kept plenty in reserve, standing up and slaloming through the finish of the 3,043-metre course.

The overall World Cup leader, Paul Accola, clinched his place in the Swiss quartet for the race with a rousing run, bettered only by Wasmeier, which thrust him into medal contention. Wasmeier clocked 1 min 51.18sec to Accola's 1:51.84.

Practice times did not reveal a full picture as the world's best downhills con-

tinued to familiarise themselves with a largely unfamiliar slope, but Wasmeier's broad smile told a tale of confidence. "I think it will be better on Sunday," the giant slalom world champion in 1985 said.

Accola, who achieved his best downhill result in Germany in January when he finished ninth behind the winner, Wasmeier, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, proved himself a genuine contender on this track, which the purists do not consider a real downhill.

His performance, achieved on super-giant slalom skis, secured his team place along-

side Heinzer and Daniel Mährer, leaving the more established downhills, William Besse and Xavier Gigandet, to duel for the last vacancy today.

Wasmeier, whose win in Garmisch was his first downhill triumph in five years, is in form. He was second in a downhill in Wengen and third in a giant slalom in St Gervais during the lead-up to the Games. "I want to think about it as little as possible and do nothing different from what I'm doing in training," he said.

Heinzer contented himself with fourteenth place, 2.24 seconds adrift of Wasmeier,

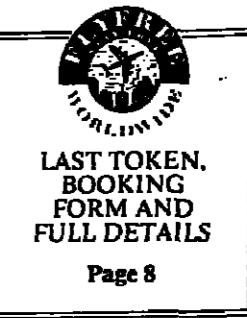
as he patiently prepared his challenge for the last title missing from his downhill collection.

Lasse Arnesen strengthened his bid to earn Norway's first Olympic Alpine skiing medal in 40 years with the third-fastest time, 1:51.86.

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES: 1. M. Wasmeier (Germany) 1:51.18sec; 2. P. Accola (Switzerland) 1:51.84; 3. D. Mährer (Austria) 1:51.86; 4. F. Heinzer (Switzerland) 1:51.86; 5. G. Martin (USA) 1:52.02; 6. D. Mährer (Norway) 1:52.02; 7. W. Besse (France) 1:52.02; 8. X. Gigandet (France) 1:52.02; 9. D. Mährer (Norway) 1:52.02; 10. F. Ricard (France) 1:52.02; 11. P. Accola (Switzerland) 1:52.02; 12. W. Besse (France) 1:52.02; 13. X. Gigandet (France) 1:52.02; 14. M. Wasmeier (Germany) 1:52.02; 15. H. Zehetner (Austria) 1:52.02; 16. V. Gremillet (France) 1:52.02; 17. R. Schmid (Switzerland) 1:52.02; 18. D. R. Johnson (USA) 1:52.02; 19. G. S. B. Hulme (Great Britain) 1:52.02; 20. D. R. Johnson (USA) 1:52.02; 21. G. S. B. Hulme (Great Britain) 1:52.02; 22. W. Besse (France) 1:52.02; 23. X. Gigandet (France) 1:52.02; 24. D. Mährer (Norway) 1:52.02; 25. R. Schmid (Switzerland) 1:52.02; 26. H. Zehetner (Austria) 1:52.02; 27. R. Schmid (Switzerland) 1:52.02; 28. D. R. Johnson (USA) 1:52.02; 29. D. R. 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# WEEKEND TIMES

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Floating in the air: Kirstie Marsh goes into spectacular action in the aerial element of the freestyle skiing contest, a single spectacular somersault from a specially prepared jump. Britain's Jilly Curry is tipped for a freestyle gold

## Head over heels in love with danger

**T**hey leap 15 metres into the air, turn a triple somersault with two twists before landing — and the whole balletic performance is over in less than ten seconds. "It is," says Jilly Curry, whose spectacular performance on skis could bring a gold medal back to Britain, "hard to find anything that gives you such a buzz."

It is equally difficult to imagine anything that looks so gravity-defying and graceful being achieved by someone with two long planks attached to her feet. But such is the result of a combination of sporting enthusiasm, gymnastic precision and hours of practice on the lawn in the back garden. This is where 30-year-old Curry, the daughter of an Olympic steeplechaser from Dunsfold, Surrey, now one of the world's top women freestyle skiers, once suffered a rare injury: she broke an ankle when she fell over her ski poles.

Today the sixteenth Winter Olympics begin in Albertville, in the Savoie region of France, and Curry will be up there somewhere, sailing through the air with the greatest of ease. The image of freestyle skiing as a serious sport has not been enhanced by having a two-minute balletic routine set to music, like the risible synchronised swimming, included in its triple discipline. But the other two elements — aerials, a single spectacular somersault from a specially prepared jump, and moguls, a 250m descent over a bumpy course including two upright jumps — are dangerous and breathtaking enough to attract even the most serious sportsman and dedicated spectator.

There was a time, not so many Olympics ago, when winter athletes events that looked remotely artistic were derided as sissy sports. It was John Curry who transformed the way ice skating was perceived with his revolutionary routine during the 1976 Innsbruck Olympics. Poetry in motion combined with stupendous courage: the image problem was melded.

By the time Torvill and Dean were acclaimed for their skill as

**Tomba la Bomba, Jilly Curry, the Duchesnays . . . who will be the heroes of the sixteenth Winter Olympics, opening today in Albertville? David Powell goes cold-weather star-gazing**

hears, a winter holiday brochure

toing to life.

So who will be this year's star? One of the daring downhill demons? These are the young men who do not flinch at trying to tame the mountain with speeds up to 80 miles an hour. From a standing start they catapult down a white wall of snow that falls away at a 63-degree angle, and within 20 seconds are hitting the G-force. In the Olympics, speed is literally a life or death affair.

Switzerland's Paul Accola could be the man who, in a flurry of snow flakes, skids into our consciousness. Competing against the laws of nature is the name of the game, and Accola has won the most accolades so far.

**O**ne or two other Brits might come good. Wilf O'Reilly is hot on ice too, but his skill is not so much grace as agility and incredible speed. He is competing for the short-track speed gold, an event granted full Olympic medal status only this year. He is expected to win the 500 and 1,000 metres, circling the ice rink at 30mph, balancing on two 16in cutting edges. He can pass an opponent on a bend in a tenth of a second. Blink and you miss it.

One name already on everyone's lips is Albertville, a new Alpine village built over a period of ten years at a cost of £1.7 billion, is Alberto Tomba. Tomba la Bomba. A 6ft, 15-stone Italian

star. Tomba is the son of a millionaire industrialist, but in the Alpine countries family wealth is not a prerequisite of success. Vreni Schneider, Tomba's opposite number at the last Olympics,

winning the women's slalom and giant slalom, is the daughter of a Swiss shoemaker. Petra Kronberger's father is a cement truck driver, and Kronberger is the world downhill champion.

While Tomba has acquired from skiing a wealth probably more fabulous than his millionaire father's, and the World Cup overall champion, Marc Girardelli, flies his own helicopter from race to race, the riches from winter sport are reserved for the few. What has Ronald Duncan, Britain's best downhill racer, got to show for a 5in scar on his buttock after an accident in which he nearly lost a leg? "Home is a room in Clapham, not big enough for my bed and my skiing equipment," he says. So he sleeps on a foldaway mattress on the floor.

A small sacrifice, presumably, for the chance to après-ski nightly? "Despite the illusion of glamour, drinking, girls and partying around the circuit, it is not like that. If you do that you will lose, and I do not feel like risking my life for a party."

This season, just when he thought he had cracked the sponsorship barrier, luck deserted Duncan. Last winter he skied on a budget of £10,000 but was looking to double it. He was awarded £10,000 but, at the last count, he was still waiting: the money had been promised from a company with Maxwell connections.

Martin Bell, Britain's best-ever Olympic downhill after his eighth place in Calgary four years ago, has grown accustomed to the unglamorous routine. He says: "In a typical week, we are competing on Saturday and Sunday, travelling and getting in at the next venue on Monday and Tuesday, training and doing practice runs from Wednesday to Friday, competing on Saturday and Sunday and so on. Some of the Swiss or Austrian guys can manage the odd day at home but it is impossible for us."

Tomba is the son of a millionaire industrialist, but in the Alpine countries family wealth is not a prerequisite of success. Vreni Schneider, Tomba's opposite number at the last Olympics,

dressing for the part takes longer than the business. The downhill run lasts but two minutes: putting on the brightly-coloured, skin-tight Lycra, the boots, the skis and the helmet is a fastidious process. It can take half an hour.

Then there is the mental preparation. As each skier awaits entry into the start hut, there is the visualisation routine: the rehearsal of the charge down. Franz

Heinzer, favourite for this year's Olympic downhill gold, goes through the process 20 times before each run. Kronberger four or five.

Winter Olympic athletes are the least superstitious of all sportsmen and women. As one of them pointed out, after a practice race which would make a black run seem like a slide down a snowdrift, luck has nothing to do with it.

## Countryweek

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#### SAY IT WITH...

Food and pink fizz for a St Valentine's day love-in from The Times cook, Frances Bissell, and Jane MacQuay

Page 7



#### HIGH SOCIETY

In summer Snowdonia is crawling with tourists. But in winter, Robin Young discovers, it is desolate, raw and thrilling

Page 10



#### GLOBE-TROTTER

Kay Marles meets artist Richard Walker, whose travels inspired a mural on four-year-old Seth Royston's bedroom wall

Page 15

Television: Lynne Truss turns on to a good read Page 3  Out of Town: a water-volt's eye view of a disappearing world Page 9  My Perfect Weekend by A.L. Rowse Page 13

## FILM

**BLACK ROBE** (15): Seventeenth century Jesuit (L'Orphelin Bluteau) tries to convert Indians in northern Quebec. Intelligent epic from Brian Moore's novel. Director, Bruce Beresford. MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) Plaza (071-497 9999).

**BLAME IT ON THE BELLBOY** (12): Mistaken identities in Venetian. Impersonal, machine-tooled, old-fashioned farce. With Dudley Moore, Richard Griffiths, Patsy Kensit. Writer-director, Mark Herman. *Cannons*: *Cheslea* (071-352 5056) Oxford Street (071-436 0310) *Odeon*: *Kensington* (0426 914665) West End (0426 915574) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

**BOUDI SAVED FROM DROWNING** (PG): Welcome revival of Jean Renoir's anarchic pastoral (1932), with Michel Simon as the unregenerate tramp clasped to the bourgeois bosom. Plus Jean Vigo's surreal view of school days, *Zéro de conduite* (U). Renoir (071-537 8402).

**COUPE DE VILLE** (12): Three warring brothers travel cross-country in a 1954 Cadillac. Breezy blend of road movie, male-bonding comedy, and 1960s nostalgia. With Patrick Dempsey, Arye Gross, Daniel Stern; director, Jon Roth. *Cannons*: *Fulham* Road (071-370 2363) *Penton* Street (071-930 0831).

**DEATH IN BRUNSWICK** (15): Sam Neill as an ageing mother's boy sucked into love, violence and accidental murder. Tasty black comedy from new Australian director John Ruaan. *Cannon*: *Tottenham* Court Road (071-636 6148) *Metro* (071-471 0757).

**MY GIRL** (PG): Teeth-grating blend of pre-teen angst and middle-aged romance. Macaulay Culkin gets his first kiss. With Anna Chlumsky, Dan Aykroyd, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Howard Zieff. *Cannons*: *Baker* Street (071-672 5006) *Odeon*: *Kensington* (0426 914665) *Leicester Square* (0426 915583) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

**THE PLEASURE PRINCIPLE** (18): Tangled affairs of a philandering journalist (Peter Fonda). Flawed comedy that seems left over from the Swinging Sixties. Director, writer-director David Cohen. *Cannons*: *Fulham* Road (071-370 2363) *Oxford* Street (071-436 0310) *Screen on the Green* (071-497 2352) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

**URGA** (PG): Nikita Mikhalkov's mesmerising film about civilisation encroaching on the Mongolian steppes. The top prize-winner at last year's Venice Film Festival. Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865).

**DOUBLE IMPACT** (18): Jean-Claude Van Damme, the "muscles

from Brussels", as two twin brothers fighting wrongs in Hong Kong. Lame action movie. Director, Sheldon Lettich. *Odeon*: *Marble Arch* (0426 914501) *Plaza* (071-497 9999).

**FOR THE BOYS** (15): Song-and-dance team entertain troops in three wars, only to be ruined by a synthetic script. With Bette Midler, James Caan; director, Mark Rydell. *Cannons*: *Parkway* (071-267 7034) *Odeon*: *Kensington* (0426 914665) *West End* (0426 915574) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

**FRANKIE AND JOHNNY** (15): Short-order cook (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer). Synthetic adaptation of Terence McNally's play. Director, Gary Marshall. *Barbican* (071-636 6891) *Cannons*: *Baker* Street (071-935 9772) *Fulham* Road (071-370 2363) *Empire* (071-497 9999) *MGM* *Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *Plaza* (071-497 9999) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

**HORS LA VIE** (15): Mystery account of a French hostage's life in the turmoil of Beirut. Starring Hippolyte Girardot; director, Maroun Bagdad. *Cannons*: *Tottenham* Court Road (071-636 6148) *Screen on the Green* (071-935 2772).

**JFK** (15): Oliver Stone's contentious, electrifying, three-hour drama about the Kennedy assassination. Kevin Costner as crusading D.A. Jim Garrison; a bustling supporting cast. *Barbican* (071-636 6891) *Cannons*: *Parkway* (071-267 7034) *Cannons*: *Fulham* Road (071-370 2363) *Empire* (071-497 9999) *Notting Hill* *Coronet* (071-727 6705) *MGM* *Trocadero* (071-434 0031) *Screen on the Green* (071-225 3520) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

**LITTLE MAN TATE** (PG): How and now to rear a child prodigy. An engaging young player (Adam Hann-Bryce) and sensible direction (Jodie Foster) easily offset the facile moments. *Cannons*: *Cheslea* (0426 915353) *Kensington* (0426 914665) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

**MY GIRL** (PG): Teeth-grating blend of pre-teen angst and middle-aged romance. Macaulay Culkin gets his first kiss. With Anna Chlumsky, Dan Aykroyd, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Howard Zieff. *Cannons*: *Baker* Street (071-672 5006) *Odeon*: *Kensington* (0426 914665) *Leicester Square* (0426 915583) *Whitley* (071-792 3332).

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from Brussels", as two twin brothers fighting wrongs in Hong Kong. Lame action movie. Director, Sheldon Lettich. *Odeon*: *Marble Arch* (0426 914501) *Plaza* (071-497 9999).

**DELICATESSEN** (15): French video whiz-kid Michel and Carlo's wonderfully bizarre film about a house of tenants living above a cannibalistic butcher. With Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Douagnac. *Cannons*: *Cheslea* (071-352 5056) *Tottenham* Court Road (071-636 6148) *Gate* (071-727 4045) *Metro* (071-437 0757) *Screen on the Hill* (071-435 3365).

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The northern rivers are dark, the southern clear. The terrain varies from scrubland and jungle to plantations of pine, eucalyptus, and rubber. The people vary from Caboclos living in stil houses and raising gardens cultivated in canoes to stylish Europeans sipping espresso in a sidewalk cafe in Manaus and former descendants of expatriate Confederate families. The birdlife encompasses hundreds of species, from hummingbirds to screaming toucans and eloquent parrots.

By day, the massive waterways - at times so wide that the opposite shore is not visible - bustles with the traffic of vessels of all types, from freighters and container ships to the rafts and fishing boats of the Indians. They may be carrying fruit, nuts, and fish to market, or the water taxi, taking city workers back to their village homes. Thanks to the *Zodiacs*, we can take in amazing sights: countless birds, giant trees, and exciting reptiles.

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## THEATRE

## LONDON

**ANGELS IN AMERICA**: Strong performances in Tony Kushner's epic, violent drama: AIDS, religion, politics, everything. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-423 2252), Tonight, 8pm, Sat, 7.30pm, mat today, 2.30pm.

**BECKETT**: Riveting performances from Derek Jacobi and Robert Lindsay in Arnold's play on the relationship between Thomas Becket and Henry II. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-920 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm.

**CARMEN JONES**: Oscar Hammerstein's best-remembered musical, set in 1942. Report has it the zest is sometimes missing. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-926 7616), Mon-Sat, 8.30pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm.

**SOPHISTICATED LADIES**: Twelve singer-dancers what through the music of Cole Porter, Irving Berlin, and George Gershwin. *Barbican* (071-636 8891), tomorrow, 7.30pm.

**BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**: The orchestra's programme begins with a rarity

— in the context of large-scale orchestral concertos at soy rate — in the form of J.C. Bach's Symphony for double orchestra, Op 18 No 1, and includes Kyung-Wha Chung in Brahms's Violin Concerto. Ever eager to promote the music of his American homeland, Michael Tilson Thomas also conducts Steve Reich's *Three美洲人*, described by Times as "an extremely propulsive, jazzy, almost Caribbean sort of piece".

**Barbican** (071-636 8891), Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm.

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**: *Monna Lisa* (071-923 2223), Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 8.00pm.

**PAINTING CHURCHES**: Sir Philip (excellent) and Leslie Phillips (admirably boisterous) conduct Jodie Lawrence in their eclectic daughter in a quirky, touching family play.

*Playhouse*, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-929 4401), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm.

**A SWELL PARTY**: Four

singers, two pianists in likeable tribute to Porter's wit and wry mordancy.

*Waterloo*, The Strand, WC2 (071-926 9987), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

**TALKING HEADS**: Patricia Routledge and Alan Bennett excel in three of his monologues exploring the unconscious humour and pain of desolate lives.

*Comedy*, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

**A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS**: Lively parade of tuneful oldies. *Comedy*, Whitechapel, EC3 (071-926 1045), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

**ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**: The RSC's *Measure for Measure* (071-923 2223), Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, Sun, 8.00pm.

**ROYAL OPERA HOUSE**: Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1069), Thurs, 7.30pm.

**SWAN LAKE**: Following the success of its new *Romeo and Juliet*, Northern Ballet Theatre has come up with a new production of *Swan Lake*.

*Choreographed by Dennis Wayne and directed by Les Brotherton, the production is*

*presented as part of a mixed bill which also includes Ashton's two finest abstract ballets: *Monotones* and *Scales de ballet*.*

*Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1069), Thurs, 7.30pm.*

**VOGLER QUARTET**: The

young Vogler Quartet, whose

members hail from what used to

be known as East Berlin, greatly

impressed critics when they

made their debut at the Wigmore Hall a couple of years ago. In

this, their first concert of British tour, they play Wolf's *Isolde*, Sibelius, The Alwyn, WC2 (071-926 5065), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

**ROYAL SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA**: The Scottish composer James MacMillan's *The Gathering* features in the Royal Scottish Orchestra's concertos this week. Peter Maxwell Davies is the soloist in this concerto, with whose title stems from the ancient warrior Celts' suicidal combatting. Also in the programme are Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture* and Tchaikovsky's "Pathétique" Symphony. Matthias Bamert conducts. Music Hall, Aberdeen (0224 641122), Tues, 7.30pm. Caird Hall (0222 371235), Wed, 7.30pm.

**ADZIZO**: The Pan African dance ensemble presents the London premiere of its latest work, *Siva Goli*, which means "we are going to Johannesburg — the City of Gold". The work re-enacts the ancestral "Feast of Return", a time when the dead and banished come back to recount their past. The show features a cast of over 30 dancers and drummers.

*Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8912), Wed-Sat, 7.30pm.*

**PAULA REGO**: In 199

# Actions speak louder than words

**A** red letter day, last Sunday, if ever there was one. *Songs of Praise* (BBC1) finally capitulated to an overwhelming audience demand, and started to display the words of the hymns on-screen. What a relief. They said that the requests had been flooding in (by way of proof: a shot of a pile of letters on different coloured note-paper), and that it was time to concede to common sense at last. No more must we rifle frantically at home through our old school hymn-books searching for "God is working His purpose out", locating it just when everyone in the congregation stops singing.

Well, I had to laugh, really. How I had laboured week after week over those wretched letters — sloping the handwriting to right and left, rummaging in desk drawers for old scraps of floral-headed notepaper and dog-eared kingfisher notecards. I had even resorted, in desperation, to composing one letter entirely out of words cut from *The Times*, pasted (all crooked) on a sheet of A4. It was probably this last missive that did the trick, come to think of it. But why didn't they pick up my "bouncing ball" suggestion? What a lost opportunity.

The issue of subtitles came up a few times this week — they seemed to be everywhere. "Just off to read some television." I quipped to the cats one evening (but they just gave me a blank look). For example, attempting to get on with some urgent knitting during Wednesday's *Bookmark* (BBC2) was a huge mistake, because every time I looked away from the telly to count the number of stitches I had dropped, a vital piece of information was silently flashed on screen (by way of commentary), and I missed it. Fortunately I guessed that the subtitles in Screen Two's *The Count of Solar* (BBC2) would be crucial (it concerned a deaf-mute boy, learning sign language), otherwise I might have sacrificed one of the few decent bits of telly to an inadequate impression of Madame Defarge.

What tricky blighters these subtitles are. Try watching a few hours of television with someone who needs the teletext captions, and just see how long you can stand it. Personally, I am banging my head on the carpet within half an hour. I was obliged to watch with teletext for a little while this week, and honestly started to wonder whether God had heard about the *Songs of Praise* scam and was subtly working his purpose out — by making me read every line of *Inspector Morse* when it was spoken. A plague of boils would be too lenient, evidently. To imagine the full irritation of the teletext

## REVIEW

**Subtitles popped up all over the place this week, but not always helpfully.**

**Lynne Truss says**

subtitle, you must imagine sitting in a cinema and hearing every scene described in advance by a voice next to your ear. "This is the bit where he fires the gun," says the voice. "Bang!" goes the gun on-screen. "But it's all right; it turns out she's not dead," he says, at which the heroine opens her eyes.

Watching TV with the subtitles is slightly worse than this, actually. Because not only do the captions pre-empt the words coming out of people's mouths, they also represent them inaccurately. "Hello," says the caption as a man walks into a room. "Hi," says the actor. "Is that you, dear?" asks the wife, hurrying from the kitchen. "Hi," says the caption. It is incredibly irritating.

**I**n this week's *Wildlife on One* (BBC1), the heroic lifecycle of a tiny innocuous fish called a eulachon was given a subtle change of nuance by the teletext subtitles, which described it throughout as a brook-lan. I suppose the fish doesn't care either way. But the viewer was left with the confused impression that the poor defenceless eulachon deserved its swinging share of natural predators — whales, seals, eagles — because it had probably mis-spent its youth wrecking foot-trains across Europe.

As far as hard-of-hearing viewers are concerned, this all seems a bit of a swindle (though of course it's much better than nothing). As far as anybody else is concerned, the only answer is to obscure the lower part of the screen from view (by crouching behind the sofa). This may seem extreme, but it is surprising how dramatic tension simply gives up the ghost once the viewer has prior knowledge of the dialogue.

In the context of all this literal-mindedness, the subtitles of David Nokes's play *The Count of Solar* were much to be welcomed.

Based on a true story, it concerned a deaf-mute boy found wandering wild in France in the 1780s, and



Fingers talking: learning sign language raised the Count of Solar from urchin to aristocrat — just in time for the French Revolution

subsequently educated in sign by the saintly Abbé de l'Epée (David Calder in a wig). But no sooner could the boy express simple things such as "bread" and "hat" than he discovered a picture in a book that made him want to say something a great deal more complicated — viz. "This is a picture of my ancestral home. I am actually the Count of Solar, cruelly abandoned by a wicked lawyer for some reason, and I intend to claim my inheritance." Language, we were told, is what separates man from beasts. In this boy's case, the immediate benefits of language were to raise him, potentially, from urchin to aristocrat, just in time for the French Revolution. God was working his purpose out again.

It was an enigmatic story, shot very beautifully in pools of old-master yellow light (the director was Tristram Powell), and very nicely acted. The question of the boy's identity was irresolvable, so was simply left unresolved. Merely to label this boy the Count of Solar might bestow wealth and power, but it would make no difference to his essential state: the real enigma was inside him, and was inseparable from his deafness.

David Wright, there was a heart-stopping sequence in which a woman sign-teacher recited Wordsworth's "I wandered lonely as a cloud" while simultaneously signing it. "Beside the lake, beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the breeze" sounds pretty trite on its own — but who should have seen it soar in this woman's hands. It was sublime.

Similarly, *The Count of Solar* noticeably took flight in its most quiet, most non-verbal scenes — as when the boys at the Abbé's school said their prayers together, signing in unison. The film ended with a flashback to the Abbé conducting a comprehension test entirely in sign: "What is hope?" "Hope is the trust of the mind." "What is gratitude?" "Gratitude is the memory of the heart." Honesty, it loses a lot in the translation.

Talking of which, it would be negligent not to mention here a

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ANDREW WATKINSON violin  
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Intermezzo & Easter Hymn (Cavalleria Rusticana);  
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J. STRAUSS...Blue Danube Waltz  
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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8 1992

## ENTERTAINMENT

5

# Seal is set on his success

Nominated for three of next week's Brits awards, rock star Seal has only one album and one tour to his name. David Sinclair investigates his appeal

**T**hirty seconds into our conversation, Seal's mobile phone rings. The call is from Brazil, where Seal has just performed at two stadiums in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The news is that his song, "Killer", has been the most played record on Brazilian radio this week. "When's the carnival?", Seal asks airily as the conversation nears its end. "I'll see you there."

Less than two years ago, Seal was still living in a London squat. For a young man - well, 29 later this month - suddenly to have the world at his feet must be a strange feeling. No less concerning must be the experience of receiving the third of his three nominations for next week's Brits awards: Best Album by a British Artist (his self-titled debut), Best British Newcomer and Best British Male Artist. Other nominees in the latter category include Elton John, George Michael, Phil Collins and Van Morrison.

"It's hilarious. I know," he says easily. "I find it flattering to be compared to them, but in reality I know it's not like that. Those guys have a whole back catalogue that indicates their greatness. I've made one album and done one successful tour."

This is true. Yet in that short space of time Seal has demonstrated a rare ability to transcend the factional divisions of modern popular music culture. He made his mark initially on the technology club scene, thanks to his alliance with keyboard boffin Adamski which produced the UK No 1 hit "Killer".

His album, produced by Trevor Horn, married soul and synthesizer in a nouveau-progressive setting, while his live shows revealed the traditional rock 'n' roll sensibility

that was beating at the heart of his work all along. His tastes in other people's music are no less catholic, ranging from the populist craft of Bryan Adams's "Everything I Do I Do It For You" - a classic song, one to rank alongside the Motown greats - to the lunatic avant-garde indulgences of Fishbone.

A great many Britons first became aware of Seal when Samuel as a huge figure, legs astride, glowering down from billboard hoardings all around the country. If anything had gone wrong, this advertising broadside for his first album could quite easily have been branded the most outrageous hype. "I wouldn't have had the gall to suggest such a campaign myself," he says now, "although I sincerely believed that I had what was required to substantiate that amount of promotion."

His real-life presence is not a lot different from that imposing image. Standing six foot four and weighing 14 stone, he is dressed in the inevitable black leather trousers when he arrives at his record company offices in Kensington. He wears a huge pair of sunglasses and carries a guitar.

He conforms to the theory that very tall men are not as pushy as their shorter brethren, and although he is plainly confident of his abilities and aware of his worth, Seal's unusually sensitive personality has given him a dread of succumbing to the ego disorders that one routinely encounters among people who achieve this level of success.

"Fame is a cancer," he says with some passion. "It's a really poisonous thing, believe me. You don't realize it until you get here, but suddenly you see why there is that whole thing of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll. It's so easy to fall into it. You're constantly

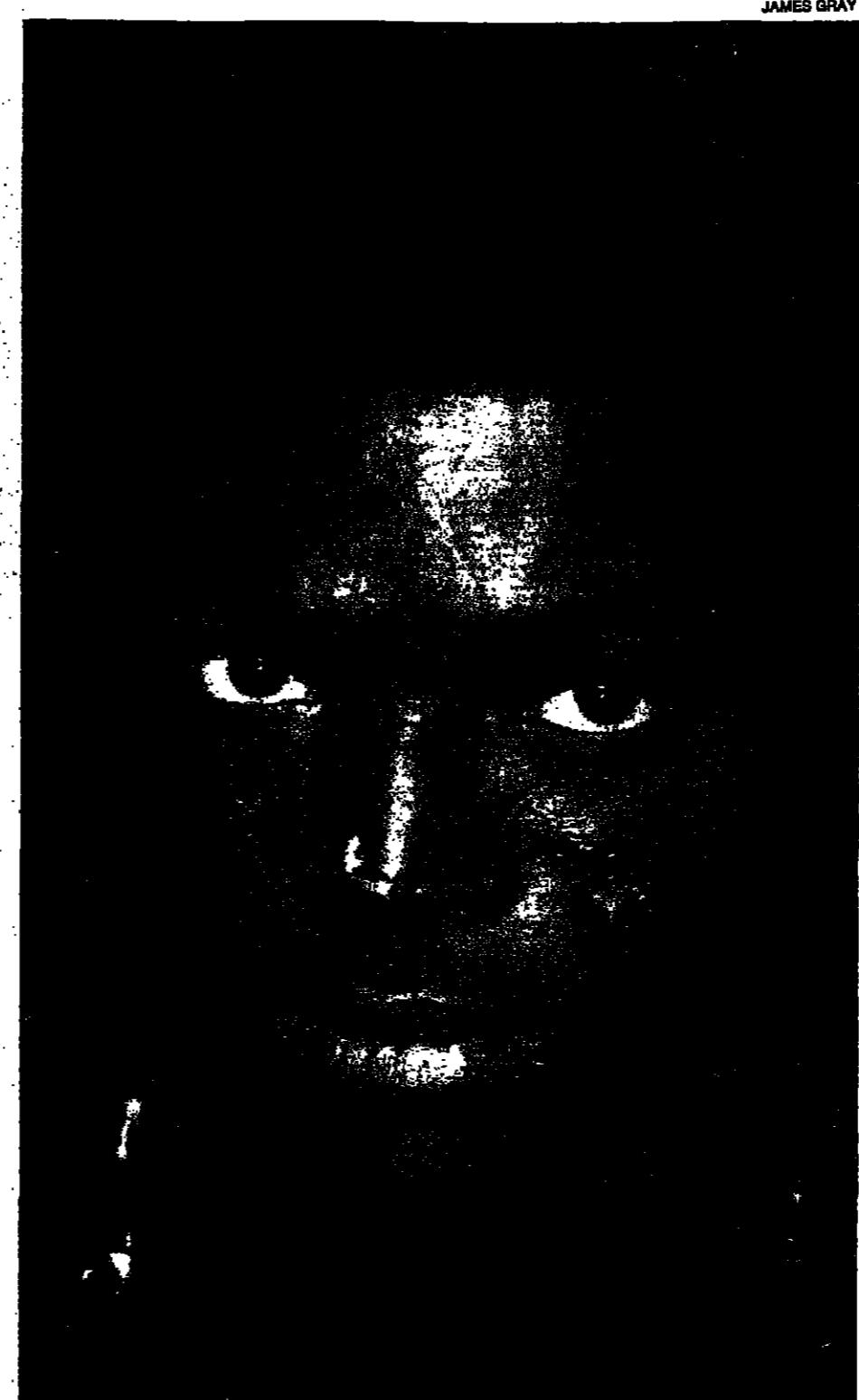
surrounded by people saying 'You're great, Seal. You're right, Seal.' No matter how much of a sensible person you are, it becomes very easy to take advantage of situations and lose respect for people."

Seal has evolved various strategies to prevent this happening. One is to maintain an entourage of people who knew him before he was successful. His manager, John Wadlow, and his accountant, Julian Spicer, are people he met five years ago, when he first started writing and recording his demos on a portable studio in a bedroom at his mother's house in Kilburn. His record company advised him to get "proper" management, but Seal has stuck with the people he feels he can trust.

**H**is personal assistant, who sits in for much of the interview, is a chap called Paul Inge whom Seal describes as "my best friend, someone who knew me and believed in me long before I had any money or success".

Seal's other tactic is to keep on the move. Born in Kilburn of Nigerian parents (and one Brazilian grandparent, an angle which the media went to town on during his visit to that country), he enjoyed a settled childhood in north London, but always longed to travel. He spent time in Thailand before he was successful, and returned there over Christmas with his girlfriend Sasha and the ubiquitous Inge.

"We went to the extreme north; well off the tourist routes, and stayed with some hill tribes. Very few of them had ever seen black people before, much less anyone with dreadlocked hair like mine. So they were really apprehensive at first. Fortunately we had lots of sweets and food



Man of the moment: Seal has a rare ability to transcend rock's factional divisions

and things to offer them. My only mistake was that I didn't take my guitar with me."

This recollection triggers a sudden move towards the guitar case, and pulling out a well-worn acoustic he proceeds to play excerpts from six new songs which he has written for his next album. He plays the instrument left-handed and upside down, to a rudimentary standard, yet

using a repertoire of slightly odd chords and voicings. Among the numbers is a song inspired by the visit to Thailand, and a tribute to Joni Mitchell. Both have lots of jangly chords played high up the neck, and the impromptu performance pulls into focus a folksy dimension to his music.

Of the several glittering prizes he has picked up so far,

Seal is most proud to have won the Ivor Novello award for writing "Killer". "I'm not a very good guitarist, and to tell you the truth I hardly ever sing in tune," he insists. "I'm a songwriter really, or at least that's what I aspire towards."

• The Brit Awards will be at Hammersmith Odeon on Wednesday at 4pm. The ceremony will be shown on BBC 1 later the same night, 7.30-9pm.

## Rejoice, but don't force it

### CONCERTS

Philharmonia/  
Barshai  
BBCSO/Lazarev  
Festival Hall

WHETHER or not the coda of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony depicts "forced rejoicing", as claimed by Solomon Volkov in the composer's putative "memoirs", remains a matter of perception, or perhaps of taste. It may well be the case, as some scholars have suggested, that such a reading arises from, or is at least fed by, cold war ideologies. Rudolf Barshai's impressive account with the Philharmonia on Wednesday demonstrated that the symphony's ending can sound insistent without a trace of cynicism: triumph without vacuity.

He achieved that partly with the steady, deliberate tempo he adopted for the coda, and partly by the skill with which he made it seem the logical consequence of what had gone before. The victory was indeed hard won, nor an after-thought. Each of the previous movements had been equally convincing, with a succession of wind and brass solos negotiated by the respective members of an orchestra on superlative form.

Neither in Strauss nor Mahler could the string playing be described as flawless, though the wind and brass solos were generally well taken. Under Lazarev's baton, a personal view of sorts gradually emerged in the Mahler: full-blooded playing at the climaxes, and a strong sense of irony in the funeral march, yet never quite taking the breath away.

At least, that was the case until the coda of the finale, which Lazarev made electrically. Such an approach proved that the final triumph need sound no more hollow than that of Shostakovich.

BARRY MILLINGTON

## Spinster blossoms in world of despair

### THEATRE

#### Night of the Iguana

Lyttelton

as such, quite a challenge for any actor. Richard Burton played the role in the movie, spilling dark sexuality and a sort of sullen danger from the screen. Anthony Hopkins and Brian Cox would be capable of suggesting the character's subterranean agonies today. At the National, Alfred Molina bangs his head against a post anxiously enough, rages forcefully enough, pleads for his disappearing job adequately. But sexual power and charisma are missing. So is the sense that somewhere inside him a last-ditch battle is being waged against what is variously called his "spook" and his "blue devil". He is edgy, at times almost distraught, never in the despair Williams knew.

But his limitations are another's opportunity. In Eye's revival, the character that quietly moves to the centre of the stage, and effortlessly commands it, is the New England spinster who has spent her life caring her grandfather, an inestimably aged poet, round the globe.

As played by Eileen Atkins, with her long, fractured Modigliani face, she manages to be astringent without becoming austere, rigorous without being cold, grave but not severe, unsmiling yet outgoing and emotionally generous.

Two of her moonlight confidences to Shannon make the production worth seeing in themselves. One involves a visit to the dying in Shanghai, the other an encounter with a dowdy fetishist in Singapore



she insists on seeing as a "love experience". The audience sat rapt through both, entranced by their oddball magic.

Does this unbalance the production? I cannot think so. First of all, there is nothing wrong and much right with the supporting performances. Frances Barber might let up on her fake-triumphant choruses of "ha!", but she still has the casual, slouching sensuality the ho-

tel-owner needs, and we can, if we wish, read a certain insecurity into her over-aggressive swagger. Second and more important, it is Atkins's Hannah who most completely embodies Williams's human, forgiving wisdom.

She herself has plumbed the depths, seen the darkness, been down there with the roared a human, and emerged with a hard-won charity, resilience and belief in endur-

ance. "Nothing human disgusts me unless it is unkind or violent," she gently remarks, and at that point any doubts disappear. The play may be wordy, lacking in action, as some critics have claimed. The production may have its flaws. Both more than merit their place in our National Theatre.

Sponsor: *Dana General*

BENEDICT  
NIGHTINGALE

## Fresh from Argentina

### NEW MUSIC

#### Lontano/Martinez

St John's

THREE more new pieces from Lontano, and another three to come at its concert here next Tuesday. Odalma de Martinez's energy is matched only by her dedication, and by the equal care and enthusiasm she gets from her players.

This time they began with something curiously between a duet and a trio in Alejandro Vinao's *Tumblers*. On stage were a marimba player and a violinist, but both with headphones, and from somewhere behind them the voice of a computer. Sometimes it was clear that this was a wobbly reflection of one or other of them, bouncing off and around the marimba line like a puppy on a lead, or caused by a decisive down-bow on

the violin to make a wonderfully echoing metallic noise like a bank vault.

But sometimes it seemed to be going off on its own, and similarly there was a nice slipperiness between the instrumental parts, between effects of tumbling together and spins of solo acrobatics. The piece had other features typical of this composer's music: a feeling for sound as a substance, expressed in a gelatinous connection of events, and a rhythmic urgency that seems to come straight out of his South American background.

However, the work of another Argentinian, Michael Rosas Cobian, could hardly have been more different: cobweb music, a line of the most finely drawn ensemble sounds stretched out on near-silence. This was *Thebes*. He obviously has a close acquaintance with sound, too - the piece was

exquisitely conceived - but his is a completely other world of brushed pianissimos from piano and percussion, hummings clouds and sharply focused but tiny chains from wind instruments. The danger would be that of seeming merely atmospheric: this is music that for all its passivity, requires an acute wariness in the writing, and indeed in the performance. Here we were conducted just about safely, and with beautiful instrumental playing, to the end of the path.

Joe Cutler's *Epitaph for Nebula*, also for mixed ensemble, was not in danger of missing its destination, since its personality was so much more robust, even raw (a certain Varèse-like feeling for instrumental skirmishes and jammed sonorities), and since it was over so soon that its material seemed to be promising.

Ruth Mitchell is the only player to summon up a semblance of passion. Her bitter teasing of Ophelia and her mounting excitement during the play scene, strike sparks. Good swordplay (Liz Kettle as Laertes comes remarkably to life).

PAUL GRIFFITHS

## Boring roaring

### THEATRE

#### The Roaring Girl/ Hamlet

Croydon Warehouse

THE director of *The Sphinx* (formerly the Women's Theatre Group) asserts that because Shakespeare wrote only for men, incidentally creating characters who combined masculine and feminine elements, women should now have a go at playing all the roles. But having made the imaginative gender switch, Sue Parrish's direction offers no unexpected insight. Three hours of plodding adequacy are three very long hours indeed.

The play is put in context by a prologue written by Claire Lockwood, of *Trafalgar* fame, spoken by Moll Cutpurse. Alexandra Mathie, convincing as the sturdy swashbuckler, introduces us to her company of female reprobates and simply down-trodden wives and mothers. She also plays *Claudius*. Since creating the lead in *Daisy Pulls It Off*, this actress has always had something of the good chap about her, and her usurping tyrant is a genial son who strides around with his coiffure piled high and his skirt hitched up dashing on one side.

The production disdains to mimic men: some of the male characters wear breeches, some skirts, some androgynous draperies. They all keep their feminine hairstyle.

With a producer whose ideas about the play extended further than making a sexual statement, there might be some good performances. Paradoxically, the female characters are the least convincing: an under-privileged if well enunciated *Gertude* and a wooden, stilted *Ophelia*. We lose *Rosencrantz* and *Guildenstern*, for which relief much thanks, but have an *Orcic* who recalls the young *Margaret Rutherford*.

Ruth Mitchell is the only player to summon up a semblance of passion. Her bitter teasing of Ophelia and her mounting excitement during the play scene, strike sparks. Good swordplay (Liz Kettle as Laertes comes remarkably to life).

## TALKING HEADS

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY

ALAN BENNETT

'AT THE VERY HEIGHT OF HIS POWERS  
... a writer blessed not only with  
a GREAT COMIC GIFT and  
a penetrating social vision but with  
a WONDERFUL HUMANITY as well'

CHARLES SPENCER, DAILY TELEGRAPH

'THIS IS A COLLECTOR'S ITEM'

MAUREEN PATON, DAILY EXPRESS

### COMEDY THEATRE

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### THE SUNDAY TIMES

#### Complete 7-day TV guide

Tomorrow, The Sunday Times launches a new 24-page section, Television and Radio, with complete listings of programmes on BBC1, BBC2, ITV, Channel 4 and satellite TV. This full-colour guide includes previews of the best films and programmes, plus interviews and features, for the seven days from Sunday to Saturday inclusive.

MARTIN HOYLE

# Over the hill, down the dale

**H**ere's a reasonable third division idea which I offer to any publisher or producer who may be interested: a social, anthropological and literary history of Notting Hill, Notting Dale and their environs from circa 1950 until the present day. That is, from the time of the arrival of the first West Indian immigrants to the point where the area's fashionability has become so institutionalised that the action must be getting ready to move elsewhere (just as it moved from Chelsea in the 1970s).

**Parochial?** Sure. But what a parish, from the hanging gardens of Lansdowne and Elgin to the toter-squalor of Golborne; from the Mangrove to 192; from the walk-in, coin-in-the-slot dispenser of warmed-over grisette pies to Tom Conran's state-of-the-art grocery. Then there are the race riots of 1958, the Trellie Tower, *Performance*, the Globe, the Prince of Wales on the far western boundary, the muttons, the crims, etc. Anyway, there you are. Yours for free.

The oldest surviving restaurants in this manor belong, predictably enough, to that period when the peeling palazzi started to get restuccoed and alarming pastel washes were applied to workmen's dwellings, and Rachman, alsatians, kippers under the floorboards and nasty surprises through the letterbox became (more or less) extinct; apart, that is, from alsatians — though I'm still hoping.

I'm amazed that these outifts with their "characterful" interiors of Portobello gewgaws (mandatory rocking horse) and "characterful" house pets succeed in hanging on. But of course long-established places which own their freeholds or pay 1970 rents can sit pretty and get by on very little business, while newer and vastly better places still struggle, even though they may be permanently packed: witness the coming and going of archly fashion-conscious "bars", sol-disant brasseries etc over the past couple of years.

Not that all the newer places have been better than the old-timers, far from it. One that undoubtedly is, however, is L'Accento Italiano over in the far east, on the Baywater border, beyond it maybe so far as the above prospectus is concerned — the site of the old Westbourne Grove Odeon marks where one quarter of London is succeeded by another.

None the less, it feels like Notting Hill. That is where the majority of the punters seem to come from. Enough of them

**The rise of Notting Hill has peaked.**

**Jonathan Meades**  
samples its charms

appear to know each other to give it the atmosphere of a properly local joint. It's animated, vaguely party-like and there is no house rule about not passing out; indeed one young man had his head on the table before his soup plate had arrived. Still, the clubbiness is not oppressive; it does not trespass into cliqueishness: regulars — and though it is only a few months old there are plenty of them — do not get fawned upon to the detriment of first-timers, casuals and so on.

The service is particularly adept — the staff are not only amiable, they have the advantage of height: the bar and service station are raised to give them a clear view of beckoning diners.

This is a simple feature which may be a disadvantageous taken up elsewhere. The room is pale sage, with a gently concave, suspended ceiling, a rough-cast wall the colour of wet sand, and wooden tables, each of which is equipped with a modish flask of herby olive oil.

**T**his is a fashion which, with luck, will go beyond fashion and become a fixture of many outifts for years to come. It beats butter even if it does spot clothes. The rather cakey bread is superior to what you'd get in many places in Italy. So, in fact, is cooking.

Like Al San Vincenzo near Marble Arch or Riva in Barnes, this is an establishment that is of much more than purely local interest. But book the bush telegraph is efficient, word is out — I don't recall a restaurant in which I've seen so many non-resident hopefuls being turned away.

The prices are right, but so they are in many other nearby places.

The food is persistently faultless. The chef — who has not previously worked in London — spot-on with everything he touches. And the menu includes such rarely seen items as tripe with *borlotti* beans and *coda alla vaccinara*, the oxtail dish that is pretty much peculiar to Rome — the meat is braised with, usually, tomato and, always, celery. I didn't try it, but if it's anywhere near as good as the tripe it is worth coming for. This stomach lining was exquisitely



124 *Al San Vincenzo*

tender, flavoured with a savoury tomato and parmesan sauce and given body by the beans.

Another meat dish was also top-notch: pork fillet with a piquant *agrodolce* sauce, roast cabbage, fried courgettes, fried potatoes. Before these were an exemplary risotto with squid ink and a strange but wholly successful concoction that comprised a base of fried, garlic-flavoured bread dough with a "topping" of thin, grilled courgettes and soft goat cheese. There are a number of promising sounding sweets. Fritters with raspberry purée were good.

The wine list is short and cheap, nothing over £15. The Grignolino grape which is, perhaps understandably, not much grown outside Piedmont makes for a thin, thin wine. I didn't try it, but if it's anywhere near as good as the tripe it is worth coming for. This stomach lining was exquisitely

pezzato from somewhere down south is a much more worthwhile prospect. For those with a taste for such medicines there are numerous bitters such as Cynar and Averna.

The *Brasserie du Marché Aux Pices* is not a brasserie, but it is otherwise fittingly named. It is at the far northern end of Portobello Road, where old-style Kensal trades such as burglary and flag-flogging CD players in pubs still thrive. Not that you'll find any free enterprise buccaneers in this pleasant café — it's not nearly flash enough — to appeal to scalawags and rascals.

This café is simply furnished, slightly cramped, friendly and a happy utility for bargain hunters.

(I imagine that everyone who lives in the area knows about it already.) The cooking is wholesome, homely and sustaining. A gratin of

potatoes, *trompettes des morts* and cream would have been better had the tubers been peeled, but it was OK. Gnocchi with a cream sauce, flavoured with (probably) sage were a mite heavy. Pork is sage-roasted with split peas and bacon lardons. Chicken is sauced with tarragon and cream. Both of these dishes were absolutely sound. The combination of low prices, lack of pretension and open-all-hours policy is a winning one.

*L'Accanto Italiano*

16 *Carway Road*, W2 (071-243 2201). Lunch Mon to Fri, dinner Mon to Sat, £5 plus. Set menu £3.

*Brasserie du Marché aux Pices*

349 *Portobello Road*, W10 (081-968 5328)

Noon till midnight Mon to Sat. Lunch only on Sun. (Light breakfast every day) £4.

KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

## Another Maff gaffe

**V**egetarian Diet is Bad for press declared recently on John Gummer's behalf. When I phoned the press office at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Maff) to find out what the minister had been up to, they explained he had not exactly said that.

But anyone who studies Mr Gummer's form will realise that, though misquoted, he had not been misunderstood. Meat-eating is an article of faith to our agriculture minister.

Perhaps he should have looked at evidence linking anaemia in adolescent girls to junk food and dieting, and osteoporosis to lack of exercise and excessive protein intake, before restarting his vegetarian heresy hunt.

"This ministry is committed to the promotion of healthy eating. This is based on a balanced diet, which normally contains a proper amount of meat..."

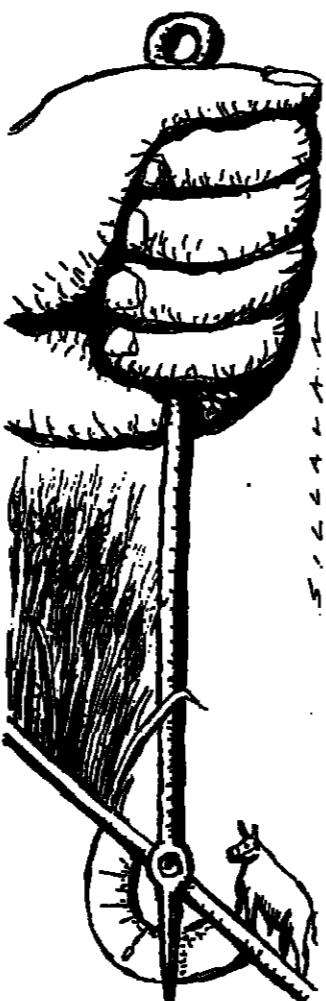
**M**ore often an improper amount of the same. Has nobody told Mr Gummer that the government's own health experts warn that 85 per cent of the population eats too much animal fat?

The World Health Organisation's recent report on diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases echoes the warning. "The same diet that helps prevent heart disease can also be beneficial for diet-related cancers, dental decay, arthritis, osteoporosis — and weight control," says Professor Philip James, the chairman of the committee which published the report. Gosh! Roast beef dinners don't seem to be the way forward at all.

Professor James was writing the foreword of *Eat for Life Diet* by Janette Marshall and Anne Heughan, a book that is based on the Who's recommendations for a healthier diet.

As well as actual weight-loss diets, the book contains copious nutritional details, but the basic message is simple: eat carbohydrate foods such as bread, pasta and rice to make up more than half the daily calorie total; eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables every day; reduce saturated fats.

To achieve these ends, the authors recommend building meals by choosing the starchy



food value of vegetable sources in rearing the carcass. On that ground, as well as on that of kindness to animals, vegetarianism is morally convincing; but nobody who saw the recent BBC programme on ravening chimpanzees tearing a monkey to pieces could maintain that we are by nature totally vegetarian.

Chimps share 98 per cent of our genes and there is no doubt at all that they drool for meat, just like Mr Gummer. Given the chance, they might stuff it every day, but would it be good for them? They can do without animal protein, though they regard meat as a great treat.

If we looked at it in that light, we would not expect meat and other animal-derived foods to be cheap basics: so, factory farms mass-producing an inferior product would be unnecessary. That would have untold benefits for animal welfare. According to the Who it would also be pretty good for our hearts, bowels, joints and waistlines.

The recipes in *Eat for Life* are quick and simple as well as healthy.

**A**ny chimp would love *Fruit Parcels* (apricot, pineapple, and apple baked in mango juice), or carrot and nut salad made ready with orange flower water. There are also good family dishes in vegetarian and semi-vegetarian modes which give ideas for adapting other recipes. Here is a simple main course.

**Pasta with green beans and prawns**  
(serves 4)

750g French beans, trimmed

225g egg noodles

1 1/2 tsp sunflower oil

1 1/2 tsp sesame oil

350g peeled prawns

2 cloves garlic, crushed

3 tbsp soy sauce

Halve the beans, simmer for five

minutes. Drain. Cook noodles

according to packet instructions.

Heat oils, stir-fry prawns and

garlic for two minutes. Add beans and noodles, stir four

minutes. Sprinkle over soy

sauce. (Variation: instead of

prawns use 350g mushrooms — mixed ceps and chanterelles are particularly nice.)

They might be more sufficient

round the globe were it not for

the rich nations' insistence on

huge amounts of animal protein,

particularly beef, produced by

wasting up to 90 per cent of the

cheese course: *pencarreg* — a Welsh brie — layered with truffles and served with walnut bread.

Andrew Taylor, 22, the chef at Llandudno's Bodysgallen Hall, produced a Welsh

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# Eat to your heart's content

**S**t Valentine was the martyred bishop of Terni in Umbria, not far from Norcia, which is famous for its black truffles. Here the truffles are said to be at their best approaching carnival time, just before Lent, which makes them a fitting dish for Valentine's day.

I thought about this as I sat in a very ordinary restaurant recently not too far from Terni, eating a plate of spaghetti alla norcia. Such was the restaurant that I had no great expectations of the dish — it looked like spaghetti with a dark mushroom sauce. But when I ate a mouthful, there among the mushroom was the unmistakable chipiness of finely chopped truffle.

This is the dish to make with that carefully hoarded tin of truffle, or even truffle peelings. Even a small amount of truffle will flavour and perfume a staple such as pasta to make it all taste of truffle. Another method for making a little go a long way is to chop into a risotto, a lovely dish for two.

Truffles have always been a sought-after delicacy, with reputed aphrodisiac properties. Before the fall of Babylon, the city nobles enjoyed them by the basketload. In classical Rome, Pliny, Martial and Apicius wrote about them in glowing terms, and many Roman cooks devised many subtle methods of preparing the aristocratic tuber, including one using fresh mint, rosemary, olive oil, wine and a little honey.

The cost of truffles today is such that feelings may well be all we can afford, and those for a very special occasion. Michel Bourdin's new kitchen at the Connaught in London was designed with a special cold room/staging room to store the thousands of pounds worth of truffles he uses in a year.

In the hope that someone might buy you a truffle for Valentine's day, here is what to do with it — plus some more recipes for the occasion.

**Spaghetti alla norcia**  
(serves 2)

2oz/60g button mushrooms, wiped and finely chopped  
1 shallot, peeled and finely chopped  
1pt/70ml extra virgin olive oil  
truffle, chopped  
seasoning



**Frances Bissell**  
**The Times**  
**cook**

## serves up a Valentine's dinner

Fry the mushrooms and shallots in half the olive oil until soft. Stir in the truffles, and cook for eight-ten minutes over a low heat. Meanwhile, cook the spaghetti, drain it, and toss in the remaining olive oil. Stir the sauce and pasta together, season lightly, and serve in heated bowls.

Oysters are invested with similar properties to the truffles, and in *Venus in the Kitchen*, Norman Douglas has half a dozen oyster recipes, which are easily cooked for two. Here is one for which I suggest you use half a dozen or so oysters and serve as an appetiser.

**Oysters in wine**  
(serves 2)

Heat the oysters in their shells. Open them, take them out, and collect their liquid in a pot. Put the oysters in a frying pan with butter, a sprig (sic) of garlic, mint, marjoram, pounded peppercorns and cinnamon. As soon as they are lightly fried, add their liquor and a glass of Malmsey or another generous wine. Serve them on toast.

In the same collection of recipes dating from the mid-1930s and earlier, also entitled *Love's Cookery Book*, Douglas describes how to prepare grilled oysters by removing them from their shells and seasoning with chopped fresh thyme, grated nutmeg and salt. Sprinkle with soft breadcrumbs, and place two or three oysters in a couple of large, cleaned oyster shells. Place a pat of butter on top, and set the shells on a griddle set over high heat. Once the liquid begins to bubble, add a teaspoon of white wine, and when the oysters' frill begins to curl, serve them, sprinkled with a little nutmeg.

I too like cooked as well as raw oysters, and this is yet another version of my favourite oyster pie recipe, this time in miniature.

### Oyster pie (makes 6)

freshly ground pepper  
6 blanched leek leaves  
4lb/110g flaky pastry  
3oz/85g softened butter  
3 anchovy fillets, chopped  
good pinch of mace  
2tbsp soft white breadcrumbs  
grated zest of ½ lemon

Remove the oysters from their shells, keeping the juice. Season lightly with pepper, and wrap in the leek leaves. Roll out the pastry, and line six tart tins. Mix the remaining ingredients, together with a little lemon juice and the strained oyster juice. Place some of the mixture in the lined tart tins, the wrapped oysters on top and the remaining butter mixture. Top the tarts with pastry lids. Brush with

an egg yolk and water glaze if you wish, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 200C/400F, gas mark 8 for ten minutes. Serve hot or warm.

The next recipe can be made with leftover champagne — if there is such a thing.

### Rose champagne granita (serves 2)

up to 1tbsp sieved icing sugar, to taste  
5fl oz/140ml rose champagne

Stir the sugar into the champagne, and freeze the mixture in a sorbetière or ice-cream maker, or in a freezerproof container in the ice-making compartment of your refrigerator. If, using the latter method, keep stirring the sides of the granita to the middle so that the mixture freezes evenly. A food processor is useful to blend the mixture before the final freezing. Do not let the mixture freeze too hard. A granita is a soft, "grainy" mixture when it is served. Here are some crisp biscuits to go with it.

### Almond biscuits (makes about 18)

1 egg white  
pinch of salt  
2oz/60g caster sugar  
½tsp grated lemon zest  
2oz/60g ground almonds  
1tbsp flour, sifted

Preheat the oven to 140-150C/275 F, gas mark 1-2. Whisk the egg white until foamy. Add the salt, and continue whisking until firm. Gradually add the sugar, and whisk until stiff. Carefully fold in the rest of the ingredients. Line baking trays with greased greaseproof paper, and drop the mixture onto it in teaspoons. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until set and golden brown. Cool on a wire rack.

ROSE hearts can be served with a fruit compote, fresh fruit or a fruit sauce. At this time of year, a delicate pink sauce made from the early forced rhubarb is perfect. In summer or autumn, a soft fruit

sauce is delightful. The flavouring of the yoghurt and cheese mixture can also be changed. Substitute orange flower water for the rose water, and serve with sliced oranges, or use freshly chopped mint and serve with blackcurrant or raspberry sauce.

You can buy individual heart-shaped pierced moulds imported from France in good kitchenware shops. Line the moulds with damp muslin or cheesecloth to stop the mixture drying out too much. If you cannot obtain moulds, pierced yoghurt or cottage cheese cartons are a good substitute, but you will, of course, lose the heart shape.

### Rhubarb sauce (serves 2)

6oz/170g forced rhubarb  
caster sugar, to taste

grated nutmeg

Blend the yoghurt and curd or cottage cheese, mix in the rosewater until smooth, and sweeten to taste. Whisk the egg white to form peaks, and fold into the cheese. Spoon the mixture into lined moulds, place on a plate, and refrigerate for about 12 hours to drain and firm up.

When ready to serve, turn out on to plates, and carefully peel the muslin from the moulded cheese mixture.

### Rhubarb sauce

6oz/170g forced rhubarb  
caster sugar, to taste

grated nutmeg

Chop the rhubarb into 1in/2.5cm chunks, but do not peel it. Rinse it and place in a saucepan with the sugar. Cook gently, partially covered, until the fruit is tender. Sweeten to taste. Rub through a sieve, sprinkle with clear honey or caster sugar, to taste, and chill until required.



## Darling sips for St Valentine

**Everyone can say it with pink fizz next Friday — even champagne is reduced, reports Jane MacQuitty**

**P**ink fizz is the obvious romantic drink for February 14 and there is plenty of it around — at bargain prices.

I find the ubiquitous Angas Brut Rosé from Australia somewhat dull and lifeless now that shiraz, not cabernet sauvignon, is its main grape. It is on offer at Sainsbury's for £4.99 this month; £5.39 at Victoria Wine.

Much better is Angas Brut. Ackerman Lorraine's stylish 1811 Saumur Rosé, whose pleasing, pale pink colour and fresh, strawberry-scented fruit is good value at £5.99 from Davison's.

If nothing but champagne will do for your loved one, get Tesco's own-label brut champagne, with its brioche-like bouquet and biscuity champagne fruit, down £1 this month to £10.45.

You should also check out Majestic's new house champagne, Bauchet, from Biseuil near Epernay, at £8.99. Not everyone will like its stewed apple scent and taste, but it won't give you a hangover.

Best of the bunch among the Oddbins February bin ends are its non-vintage champagnes. Deutz's soft, fruity bubbly is one of the biggest bargains at £12.99, down from £15.49, and Charles Heidsieck's biscuity brut, £15.49 down from £17.99, also looks a good deal.

For most lovers of wine, the mood of euphoria could last all year. The reason is the growing wine war among the hard-pressed high street outlets. Several big companies are up for sale.

Takeovers, such as Wizard Wine's purchase of Majestic Wine Warehouses and the Thresher group's acquisition of the ailing Peter Dominic and Bottoms Up partnership, are good news for wine drinkers. The high street wine scene can only be improved by the removal of the dire bottles that previously made up the Peter Dominic range, and the per-



manently low-stocked position at Majestic.

Augustus Barnet could be the next casualty, with Victoria Wine the predicted purchaser. So far, 1992 promises to be the year of the cut-throat wine deal. With the increase in VAT and higher prices from growers and merchants, it is astonishing that the drinkable £2.99 bottle continues, but it does — and next month one super-

### BEST BUYS

- 1983 Château Cosset Wizard Wine £15.95  
It is not often that wines of this calibre are stocked by the High Streeters. Counter's deep, rich, sweet, waxy wine is a great sauternes if ever there was one.
- 1989 Châteauneuf-du-Pape, Pierre André Oddbins £6.99  
Still one of the most undervalued of the Rhône appellations, Monsieur André's organic wines are worth experiencing. This gorgeous spicy, syrah-scented wine has lots of sunny fruit and was one of the top Rhônes at a recent Oddbins tasting.
- 1989 Château de Rognes, Bordeaux Supérieur Sainsbury's £2.85 on special offer  
One of the best value clarets on Sainsbury's shelves now, but selling out fast. This fifty-fifty merlot and cabernet sauvignon blend has lots of ripe, juicy, plummy merlot fruit backed up by cabernet backbone. Try it.
- 1988 Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium Trittauheimer Apotheke Riesling Auslese The Victoria Wine Company £9.89  
Just the paddling wine to cheer up cold winter months. I love the delicate, flowery, green apple and lime flavours of this sweet late harvest German wine.

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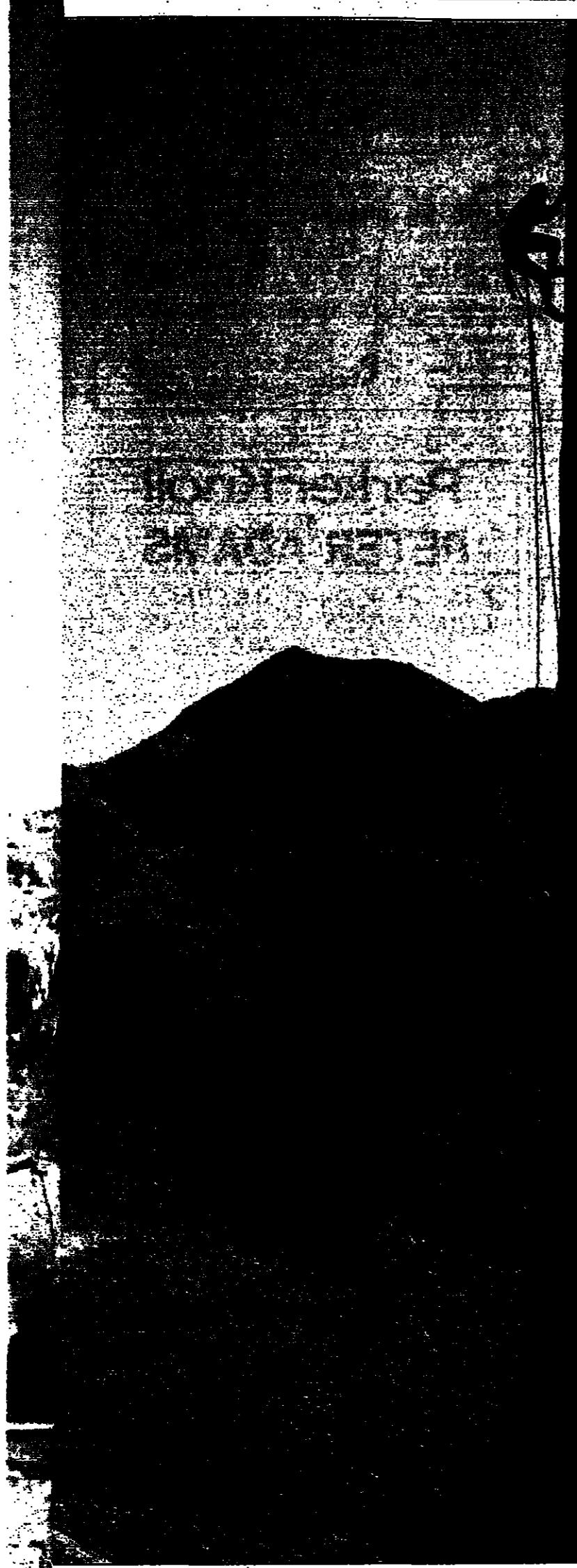
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JOHN CLEARE



Bird brains: sleek black chough in the Dinorwic quarries



Home sweet home: Ty Hyll or "ugly house", Llanberis



Welsh welcome: fearless sheep greet visitors in the car-park

## ★ WHERE TO STAY ★

Climbers tend to bivouac unofficially in the Llanberis Pass below Clogwyn y Grochan or Dinas Cromlech, or to use camp sites and bed and breakfast accommodation such as Humphreys centrally heated Bunkhouse at Gwastadnant, Nant Peris (0286 870356), or the Youth Hostel at Pen-y-Pass on the site of the Gorphwysa Hotel, where Geoffrey Winthrop Young brought his Easter climbing parties (0286 870428). There is another Youth Hostel at Llwyn Celyn up Capel Goch Road, Llanberis (0286 870280).

Among Llanberis hotels the climbers' favourite is The Heights which offers five en suite rooms and "alpine" accommodation in three dormitories, sleeping eight each. Dormitories £9 a night, £12 with breakfast. En suite £18 per person B&B. The hotel has a climbing wall free

to residents; otherwise £1 an hour (0286 871179). Better heeled mountaineers are to be found at the Pen-y-Gwryd on the south side of the pass at the junction of the A498 and A4086, which is open at weekends only until March. There are 22 clean rooms, one with en suite

facilities. The others share four bathrooms. B&B £19, or £23 in en suite room (0286 870211 or 870768).

Those seeking more luxurious creature comforts will head for Seiont Manor Hotel, Llanrug, which has 28 en-suite bedrooms, 150 acres of parkland, salmon and trout

fishing, an indoor heated swimming pool, sauna and solarium. Single £72.50, double/twin £99.50, suites £150 to £175 (0286 673366).

The largest hotel in Llanberis is the 116-room Royal Victoria, between Lakes Padarn and Peris. An International Hotel, it is offering any three nights for the price of two during February. Single £33, twin/ double £57, bargain breaks from April (two nights room with breakfast and dinner) £73 per person (0286 870253).

The Padarn Lake Hotel has 18 bedrooms. Single £29, double £49, two-day breaks including dinners £63 to £68 per person (0286 870260). Gally-Glyn is an AA one-star offering B&B from £16.50 (0286 870370), and Alpine Lodge is a member of Les Routiers offering en-suite accommodation for £29 single, £39 double, family rooms £49 for three or £59 for four.



Climber comfort: in the Seiont Manor Hotel at Llanrug

## ★ WHERE TO EAT ★

• The climbers' eating place and watering hole in Llanberis is Pete's Eats, 40 High Street, where the walls are covered with photos of climbers doing impossible things, and where a "New Routes" book is maintained to fuel gossip about latest achievements and climbing scandals. A chip butty costs £1, and the most ambitious dish, a "Big Jim" (liver, bacon, tomatoes, mushrooms, pean and

double potatoes), named in memory of the late Phil "Big Jim" Jewell, "one of Cloggy's most fervent disciples", is £6.95. Tea comes in mugs containing a pint or so (48p).

• The Heights specialises in vegetarian and wholemeal food, with daily specials on a blackboard. A wholesome three-course meal costs about £9. Anseis beers.

• At Pen-y-Gwryd there are robust bar snacks at

lunchtime bar in the evening, at the sound of a gong, usually at 7.30, they sit down together for a poly-five-course dinner built to baffle mountaineering appetites (£11). The hotel serves Bass beer and imports sherry from its own solera in Puerto Santa Maria. Must book (0286 870211/870768).

• In Llanberis Y Bistro, 43-45 High Street, opposite Pete's Eats, has a

reputation for Nerys Roberts's homely Welsh cooking featuring local produce. Dinners only, two courses £16.50, three £19 or four £21 (0286 871278).

• The most ambitious pub food in the area is to be found at the Glynwrog, Llanrug, (Anens) on the Llanberis-Caernarfon road, where rump steaks range from 5oz at £4.85 to a tigher 32oz at £11.25, and there are fish and vegetarian dishes too.

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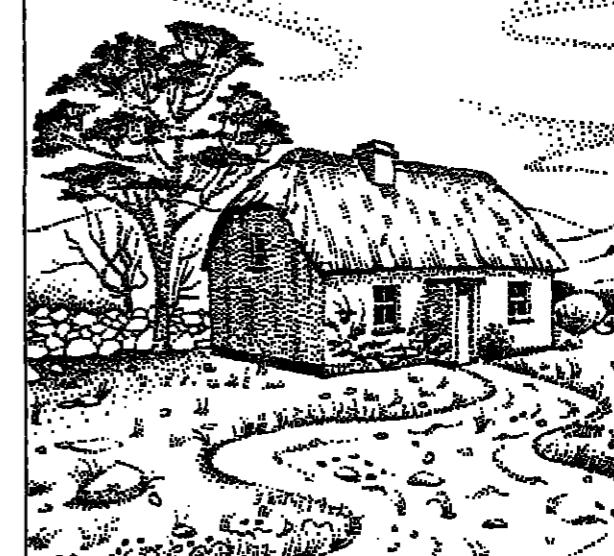
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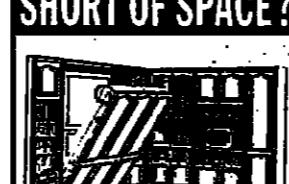
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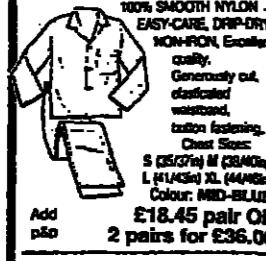
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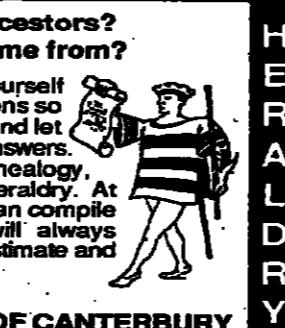
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# Paradise regained in Sherwood

Francesca Greenoak admires the tropical splendour of a Center Parc

**C**enter Parc holidays offer bikes, boats, sports and walks in the woodland of Sherwood Forest, among other locations — but the principal attraction is the huge, transparent dome enclosing the semi-tropical swimming pools, chutes and artificial rapids, all grown about with exotic vegetation.

The plants are a large part of the glamour and range from tall palms, their ostrich feather fronds reaching almost to the top of the dome, to the tiny creeping fig from the curtains of climbing bougainvillaeas to the stout, blue-grey olive trees and brilliant strelitzia bird of paradise flowers.

Barry Collins, the head gardener, is the young man responsible for the smooth running of the dome and outdoor planting. He explained how ideas have developed over the five years since the first Center Parc opened.

The organisation is now the largest importer of semi-tropical plants in Europe, and constantly looks for new and interesting plants or grows better-known ones in unusual ways.

In consequence the dome-greenhouse is one of the most interesting gardening phenomena to Britain today, a place to see warm-climate plants grown to perfection and to spy new ideas for house plants and domestic conservatories.

Few private owners would have room for a 36ft date palm or 24ft palm trees, such as the livistona or washingtonia, which give height and elegance to the dome landscape. However, if they are started from smaller specimens, they grow to a more manageable 3ft or so in a warm conservatory (not falling below 10C/50F).

In dry and partially shaded parts of the dome, the long-leaved peace lily, spathiphyllum, and the glossy-leaved vine (*Cissus antarctica*) prove their worth; in normal domestic surroundings they survive poor conditions and a degree of neglect.

Plants characterised by large, broad leaves and grown for foliage effects — syngonias, anthuriums and scindapsus — have forms with variegations in pinks, reds and golds; or vein patterns and spathes of startling beauty. They can be discovered in adventurous garden centres and houseplant nurseries.

Indoor gardening has a lot to offer the intrepid explorer: key points for these plants is to give reasonable light (not direct sun), not to overwater in winter, but to keep the atmosphere around the plant humid by placing the pot on an inch of wet gravel in the base of its planter.

The plants in the Sherwood dome must be in prime condition. "It is hard work, because all the maintenance gardening and tidying has to be done before the dome opens, or overnight," Mr Collins says. "But you can't have flops in an all-season paradise."

All the plants are, in effect, container-grown: raised bed structures a little more than 3ft at their widest and nowhere deeper than 60cm/2ft, which are filled with a mixture of clay-loam and organic materials.

Few supports are needed because the plants brace their roots against the sides of the containers. What is required is strong healthy plants rather than a fast growth, so feeding is sparing with a fertiliser based on farmyard manure.

Company policy in the woodland park and within the dome is to pursue environmentally-friendly horticultural procedures. In the dome it makes absolute sense: up to 300 people can be expected to be enjoying themselves there on any one day of the year, and it would be extremely unwise to use any hazardous pesticides.

So cultivation techniques are organic and pest-control is biological (using a wide range of parasitic insects) — a practice which also works in warm conservatories.



Undercover operation: some of the tropical foliage that flourishes under the Center Parc domes

## BEST BUYS

JUST in time for the seed-sowing season, *The Vegetable Finder* (published by HDRA, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3LG, £3.55 inc p&p) makes it possible to find vegetable favourites which were previously difficult to trace. Compiler Jeremy Cherfas has reviewed as many seed catalogues as possible and listed all vegetables known to be on sale, together with the supplier. This applies to such old varieties as Ragged Jack and Russian Red kales; less common varieties, such as broad-leaved endive Golda; and new ones, such as Thompson and Morgan's new F1 tomato Sungold.



T&M's F1 tomato Sungold

## WEEKEND TIPS

- Sow broad beans in seed trays in the greenhouse in cold areas, in cold frames or in the ground of warmer regions.
- Set potatoes, main eye upwards, in seed trays in a cool, light place, so they can make strong sprouts.
- Take cuttings from chrysanthemums growing in a greenhouse (give them an ambient temperature of 7C/45F, or put them in a propagator).
- Prune climbing roses if not done earlier and tie in long shoots as horizontally as possible.
- Avoid walking on lawns that are white with frost.

## MY PERFECT WEEKEND

We ask people in the public eye to reveal the private fantasies that would turn a weekend into 48 hours of pure magic

**A.L. ROWSE**  
Historian

Where would you go? At my disgracefully advanced age (88) I am rather stuck in Cornwall, but I should like to go back once more for a weekend at my famous and beloved old Oxford college — All Souls: particularly to see old friends like Douglas Jay, Quintin Hailsham and Roger Shepherd. Marooned on my Cornish headland I feel out of touch with things.

How would you get there? I always loved driving up from Cornwall by road; not so much by the new motorways but by the old, historic main roads that took one through such fascinating country — the Devon-Somerset border, the Wiltshire-Berkshire Downs. Such lovely places to picnic.

Where would you stay? In college. Nowhere better. Who would be your perfect companion?

My old Oxford friend David Treffry, at present also stuck in Cornwall as high sheriff. We share the same tastes — seeing historic places, churches, National Trust showplaces.

What essentials would you take?

A rug; maps of course.

Which, if any, medicines? I find Seven Seas cod-liver oil pills one up, especially in winter.

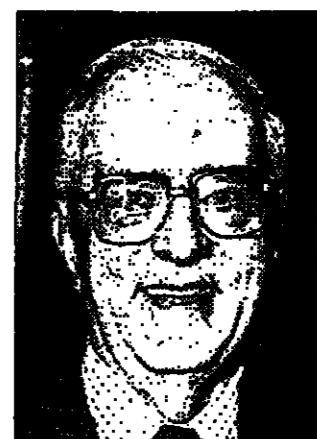
What would you have to eat? As an old master of that by no means exclusive club, the Duodenal Club, I have to be abstemious. But All Souls' cooking was always good; one could pick and choose.

What would you drink? Though I have lived most of my life over one of the best cities in Oxford, it meant nothing to me. Like Dr Johnson, I am a tea addict.

What would you take to read? Something French for a change, Colette perhaps. But I am always re-reading Jane Austen.

What three things would you most like to do?

One, revisit the Bodleian Library, where I did so much



research and found Shakespeare's Dark Lady lying in wait for me. Two, revisit the Ashmolean Museum to see its latest acquisitions. Three, walk round my favourite Merton College garden, or Addison's Walk at Magdalen.

What music would you enjoy? I should like to hear the cathedral service at Christ Church once more, or evensong at New College.

What would you watch on television?

I do not watch television, though I sometimes appear on it.

What luxury would you take? I do not go in for luxuries.

Some ghastly leftist politician, like Tony Benn, or horrible modernist poet, like Allen Ginsberg.

What three things would you leave behind?

Three of my books for libraries. To whom would you send a postcard?

To Phyllis, my housekeeper.

What souvenir would you bring home?

A book I couldn't get in Cornwall.

What would you like to find when you got home?

My loving little cat, Flippy. But, alas, she raised its ugly head and one night he went out across the fields and got killed.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

071-481 1920

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# All the world is his canvas

Kay Marles takes a voyage round four-year-old Seth Royston's bedroom wall

## me & my decorator

**W**hen Susan Royston opened the XYZ boutique in Hampstead, north London, she wanted it to have its own distinctive personality. It already had a lot of her personality through her choice of clothes, jeweller, belts and bags. But for her interior she wanted something very different.

"That was in the mid 1980s," she says, "and I wanted a feeling of warmth and comfort that people would enjoy and remember and want to return to."

Today XYZ is regarded as one of the chic-est of Hampstead's many chic shops. The walls are painted in muted shades of grey, blue, tone and tangerine, with strong designs of triangles, circles and ovals outlined in dark grey and black.

They were painted by Richard Walker, who answered Mrs Royston's advertisement in *Interiors* magazine.

An artist herself and a graduate of St Martin's College of Art, central London, she sensed immi-

edately that they were on the same wavelength.

"His portfolio was mostly of New York street scenes and buildings and his style was just right for me," she says.

Together they produced a set of drawings and Mr Walker set about creating an original piece of work around the walls.

The foray into wall paintings was a first for Mr Walker, who works from a riverside studio in Lewes, Sussex. His paintings today sell for up to £6,000 and his works are shown at the Jill George (formerly the Thum) Gallery in London, and the Madison Galleries in Los Angeles.

When Mrs Royston bought a house in Hampstead Garden Suburb, north London, five years ago, it seemed natural not only to hang her collection of Mr Walker's paintings there, but also to get him to paint some of the rooms.

Mrs Royston's house was built in 1907 by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott — a contemporary of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Built as a "farmhouse cottage", it is full of well-preserved architectural details and features of its period. All the walls on the upper floor are angled up to the eaves. Other interesting details include an octagonal study, three well-preserved oak newel posts on the central staircase, and original brick and mosaic fireplaces.

Mrs Royston has been at pains to restore the original features and furnish the house in a simple style in keeping with its design.

Mr Walker decorated a downstairs cloakroom with painted "stained glass" windows in the style of Antoni Gaudi, after a visit to the Sagrada Familia cathedral, and the Gaudi gardens in Barcelona, and painted an upstairs bathroom in black and white line-drawings inspired by Egyptian

hieroglyphics. He then turned his attention to a nursery for the baby Mrs Royston was expecting.

"I knew that the theme would be the world," he says. "I was travelling a lot at the time and I wanted to do something that was going to be educational as well as fun."

He settled on a mural called "The World in a Room", which fills the wall just above the bed.

Using primary and secondary colours — neither of them wanted

it to be blue or pink, they say — he has created a cartoon-style journey around the world.

"I wanted to paint something that the child could look at while he was growing up," he says. "So while there are recognisable symbols like the Eiffel Tower and the Taj Mahal, I also painted in a lot of small detail."

Working closely with Mrs Royston, the mural quickly evolved from early sketches. The cartoon

starts with an imaginary English home with cows in the fields, and moves on through Europe to India, China, Japan, the Sydney Opera House, Hollywood, New York and back to London.

The walls are alive with people and jokes — there is a Frenchman in a beret selling onions, a cross-Channel swimmer about to dive, a body-builder in Australia, graffiti on the New York subway and whaling off the Caribbean islands.

Mrs Royston is delighted to have got well away from the cute frieze that normally decorates a children's room. "I think it's great," she says. "It's quirky and nicely blended and it's just as appealing to an adult as to a child."

Her son Seth, now four, loves it. "It's his and that's how I think of it. I sometimes hear him talking to the cowboy on the horse in the Texan drawing," she says.

Cartoon fun: artist Richard Walker and Susan Royston in the colourful round-the-world bedroom they created for Seth at the house in Hampstead Garden Suburb



Nerve centre: 1943 and our secret heroes race to crack the Enigma codes in the huts at Bletchley Park

## New mission for the wartime code-breakers

### Veterans are in revolt against government plans for Bletchley Park

**A**bout 50 miles north of London and midway between Oxford and Cambridge lies the town of Bletchley. It seems an unremarkable, even uninteresting place. But outward appearances can be deceptive. A few years ago Bletchley was unmasked as the nerve centre of secret operations during the second world war.

Known as the Code and Cipher School, the boffins based at Bletchley Park, in the grounds of a Victorian manor house, were responsible for intercepting and deciphering coded enemy messages, particularly those sent in the supposedly unbreakable German "Enigma" codes.

As F.H. Hinsley points out in his five-volume official history, *British Intelligence in the Second World War* (HMSO), the Germans had reason to be confident in Enigma, which was produced by special coding machine.

"Instructions for arranging and setting the wheels could be changed as frequently as every 24 hours," Mr Hinsley wrote. "Any one not knowing the setting was faced with the problem of choosing from 150 million, million, million solutions."

What the Germans did not know was that just before the war the British authorities had obtained from Poland a copy of an Enigma machine. Initially, by hand, and latterly with the aid of specially-developed deciphering machines, Bletchley Park's code-breakers managed to keep pace with the increasingly sophisticated German codes.

In *Top Secret Ultra* (Cassell, 1980), Peter Calvocoressi, like F.H. Hinsley a veteran of Bletchley Park, judges that information intercepted and deciphered there contributed to some of the allies' most important victories, including the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Atlantic and the North Africa campaign.

At the height of its wartime contribution in January 1945, Bletchley Park operated almost as a town in its own right, employing 5,995 people.

Trust which was formed to try to preserve the site, says: "But if they hadn't been there, we wouldn't have won the war."

The trust is putting forward its own business plan for the park, which includes the creation and development of a museum of cryptography and computing. ("Colossus", the world's first electronic, programmable computer, was developed at Bletchley during the war.)

The museum would be housed in the huts and supported by conference facilities in the manor house, and by other accommodation and services for high-tech computer and telecommunications companies.

The plan may have a chance of success. Writing privately to Baroness Trumpington, who served at Bletchley Park, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, recently conceded: "Property Holdings are discussing with the local planning authority and the Science Museum the prospects for turning Bletchley Park House into a museum, and relocating at least some of the more important huts in its immediate grounds."

Clearly, the government is hoping for a compromise. But the trust argues that there is not enough room in the manor house's "immediate grounds" for demolition, despite its Grade I listing.

English Heritage then moved swiftly to carry out a substantial programme of major repairs and sent the £119,000 bill to the owner. Shortly afterwards the house was sold with ten acres to FIL, a property company, but since then water has begun again to seep through the roof, bringing plasterwork crashing down over the stairs. Recently East Lindsey district council has become so concerned that it is considering a further repairs notice if the roof is not patched up.

For their part the present owners can say it has taken a frustratingly long time to obtain consents. Though planning permission was granted in December 1990, the final legal agreements are only now being tied up.

Requests were made not only for detailed plans, but for a land survey specifying what plants would be planted where. Farouq Sheikh of FIL now says: "In the

CALLUM MURRAY

## Treasure in the deep south

**T**he quaint terrace house shown on the right is for sale at £6,962 in the medieval village of Drapia, about 20 minutes inland from the Calabrian coast at Tropea, an hour from the airport at Lamezia.

The old house, in honey-coloured stone, is known locally as Casa Delle Due Sorelle (House of the Two Sisters). It is structurally sound with 12in thick walls, but requires restoration and connection to mains water and electricity. Built on three levels, it has one large room on each floor with balconies, and an attic above which could be converted to provide an extra bedroom or

and a beautifully forested highland region called the Sila, just east of the Calabrian capital, Cosenza.

Wolves and boar roam the densely wooded mountains at the heart of the Sila, and there are good facilities for walking and climbing in summer, and skiing in winter. The southern tip of Calabria, between the mountains and the sea, is one of Italy's most fertile regions, famous for jujube and bergamot used in the production of perfumes, and for citrus fruits.

Almost all of Calabria is mountainous, lush and forested in parts, fringed by some of the longest, broadest, least polluted beaches in Italy. It has almost 300 miles of coastline, many picturesque towns and villages.



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There has been some development on the scenic western coast, mostly purpose-built holiday villages around the lovely old cliff-top town of Tropea, with its narrow streets and tall, shuttered houses, adorned with brightly coloured geraniums.



Large country houses in need of renovation, with an acre or two of vines and fruit trees, can be found for around £70,000. A larger town house in good condition, with a modernised kitchen and bath, terrace and a garden, will set you back around £35,000.

A remote house without neighbours in this part of southern Italy may entail a certain amount of risk from robbers. However, Calabria is not totally lawless, and more properties for sale are close to villages and perfectly safe.

Large country houses in need of renovation, with an acre or two of vines and fruit trees, can be found for around £70,000. A little peasant house, fully restored, with two double bedrooms, sitting-room, kitchen and bath, is currently for sale at £14,421, near the old village of Daffina, about three miles inland (through Brian French and Associates).

The airport at Lamezia, about an hour's drive north of Tropea, operates internationally during the summer months, with flights from many UK airports. There are year-round daily domestic flights from Rome, with connecting flights to Heathrow and Gatwick.

CHERYL TAYLOR

### Heap of the week: Revesby Abbey



Communal living plans for Revesby Abbey involve 28 small apartments sharing the main rooms

present climate we cannot begin work without a very substantial grant from English Heritage."

His plans do not apportion the main rooms among a number of large units, as Kit Martin has done in similar country house schemes. Instead they are kept for communal use. This is a fine idea, but necessitates a substantial service charge, which FIL believes is better shared among 28 smaller apartments in the main house and a further 15 mews houses in the stable courtyard.

"Most of our previous experience has been in London where you must make use of every square foot; the main house at Revesby has 35,000

square feet," Mr Sheikh says. "Revesby is announced by a splendid screen of iron railings on the A155 from Tattershall to Spilsby, but the house is well set back and largely secluded among trees.

It was one of a group of Lincolnshire houses (the others are Stoke Rochford, Rauceby, and a part of Harlaxton) built to the designs of the prolific Scottish architect, William Burn. He was a pioneer of the Elizabethan and Jacobean revivals and his houses are marked by an almost feminine charm and delicacy of detail. He was a master of country house planning. "He knew his clients,

the minutiae of their regularly ordered lives, their desire for privacy both from their servants and their constant round of guests," says Burn's biographer, David Walker.

Revesby was built in 1843-44, soon after Burn had moved to London, for J. Banks Stanhope. The style is Jacobean — a riot of bay windows, oriel, shaped gables, finials and barley sugar chimneys. Inside there is handsome paneling and plasterwork, not only in 1600 style but opulent Baroque as well.

MARCUS BINNEY

• For further information contact Mr Farouq Sheikh (0923 835222)



## BBC 1

7.35 Open University (780793) 8.50 Playdays at the Why Bother Stop (r) (8725809) 9.10 News and weather (5674248) 9.15 Getting Through, Viscount Tonypandy tells how he coped with the news, the treatment and the fears of having a life-threatening disease (1774083) 9.30 This Is The Day. Graham Young meets Dana and Jimmy Cricket (23287) 10.00 See Heart Magazine for hearing impaired (18538) Wales (to 11.00) See You Sunday 10.30 Deutsch Direkt German for beginners (r) (5616528) 10.45 Advice Shop Extra! Consumer advice from Helen Medden (7593335) 11.00 Olympic Grandstand Desmond Lyman introduces live coverage of the men's downhill from Val d'Isere. David Vane provides the commentary (66567) 12.57 Weather (9029126) 1.00 News (53655538) 1.05 On the Record. Scottish secretary Ian Lang discusses the government's plans for Scotland (2053170) 2.00 SportsEnders (Ceefax) (s) (r) (47399) 3.00 Columbo. The demands of his stunning wife become too much for an accountant and he begins embezzling to maintain her extravagant life style (r) (6075286) 4.10 Cartoon Double Bill with Daffy Duck (5692489) 4.25 Bitbæk. Julian Pettifer introduces the monthly show that puts television programme makers in the hot seat. (Ceefax) (s) (6059680) 5.05 The Clothes Show. Duncan Goodwin is among those modeling men's swimwear for Sella Scott; and how a small Irish family firm became the producer of a million t-shirts a week (2323712) 5.30 Antiques Roadshow. Introduced by Hugh Scully from the Civic Hall in Stamford-on-Sea. (Ceefax) (261996) 6.15 Play It Safe with Annette Rice (10472) 6.25 News with Chris Lowe. Weather (207267) 6.40 Songs Of Praise from the chapel of Trinity Hospice and Holy Trinity Church in south London (Ceefax) (s) (458980) 7.15 Snooker. Eamonn Holmes introduces live coverage of the Benson and Hedges Masters final from Wembley Conference Centre (124118) 7.45 Lovejoy. Benini Bronte. The roguish antique dealer is under suspicion when a priceless brooch goes missing. (Ceefax) (s) (568267) 8.35 As Time Goes By. Jean is still pained at discovering Lionel's overnight accommodation in Norwich. (Ceefax) (s) (32426) 9.05 One Foot In The Grave. Margaret is haunted by a chilling nightmare that suggests she is planning to murder Victor (Ceefax) (s) (733625) 9.40 News with Martin Lewis. Weather (245828) 9.55 Snooker. Eamonn Holmes presents the continuation of the Benson and Hedges Masters final (886199).



The new man in a hot seat: Bishop David Hope (10.25pm)

10.25 Everyman • CHOICE: A report from the Anglican diocese of London, pegged to the arrival of a new bishop, contains the startling assertion that 35 per cent of its clergy are homosexual. The claim is made by a female curate who uses it to help explain the church's hostility towards women priests. Like his predecessor, Bishop David Hope is opposed to the ordination of women, though he says so in more mollifying language. At any rate the liberal wing of the church is prepared to welcome his arrival. Even the women curate thinks the traditionalists may be in for a shock. The film reveals a church desperately divided, not only on women priests but on the debate of evangelism and, indeed, the issue of homosexuality. Not surprisingly Bishop Hope doesn't come to London as the harbinger of gloom about the prospect. (202489) 11.35 Olympic 292. Helen Rollason introduces a roundup of the day's action (452199) 12.00 Mahabharat (r) (5046768) 1.00 Weather (4922213)

## ITV VARIATIONS

**ANGLIA** As London except 12.05pm - Cash Colors (6897170) 12.50-1.00 - Anglia News (6877409) 2.00 - Yearwood in Conversation (6793) 2.30 A Place in the Sun (486) 3.00-3.20 Carlton News (779084) 4.00-4.20 BORDERS As London except 12.30pm-1.00 Garden Time (3461) 2.00-2.20 Cooking with Aga (6862525) 2.25-2.45 - 2.50-2.55 BBC1 (63318650) 2.50-2.55 Butties (2456189) 5.30-6.30 Sportsbet (47399) 12.05 Preacher. Cell Block H (6514657) 1.00 - 1.25 - 1.40 - 1.50 - 1.55 - 1.58 - 1.59 - 1.60 - 1.61 - 1.62 - 1.63 - 1.64 - 1.65 - 1.66 - 1.67 - 1.68 - 1.69 - 1.70 - 1.71 - 1.72 - 1.73 - 1.74 - 1.75 - 1.76 - 1.77 - 1.78 - 1.79 - 1.80 - 1.81 - 1.82 - 1.83 - 1.84 - 1.85 - 1.86 - 1.87 - 1.88 - 1.89 - 1.90 - 1.91 - 1.92 - 1.93 - 1.94 - 1.95 - 1.96 - 1.97 - 1.98 - 1.99 - 1.00 - 1.01 - 1.02 - 1.03 - 1.04 - 1.05 - 1.06 - 1.07 - 1.08 - 1.09 - 1.10 - 1.11 - 1.12 - 1.13 - 1.14 - 1.15 - 1.16 - 1.17 - 1.18 - 1.19 - 1.20 - 1.21 - 1.22 - 1.23 - 1.24 - 1.25 - 1.26 - 1.27 - 1.28 - 1.29 - 1.30 - 1.31 - 1.32 - 1.33 - 1.34 - 1.35 - 1.36 - 1.37 - 1.38 - 1.39 - 1.40 - 1.41 - 1.42 - 1.43 - 1.44 - 1.45 - 1.46 - 1.47 - 1.48 - 1.49 - 1.50 - 1.51 - 1.52 - 1.53 - 1.54 - 1.55 - 1.56 - 1.57 - 1.58 - 1.59 - 1.60 - 1.61 - 1.62 - 1.63 - 1.64 - 1.65 - 1.66 - 1.67 - 1.68 - 1.69 - 1.70 - 1.71 - 1.72 - 1.73 - 1.74 - 1.75 - 1.76 - 1.77 - 1.78 - 1.79 - 1.80 - 1.81 - 1.82 - 1.83 - 1.84 - 1.85 - 1.86 - 1.87 - 1.88 - 1.89 - 1.90 - 1.91 - 1.92 - 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## BBC 1

6.35 Open University: Inorganic Chemistry — Crystals 7.00 Curves from Parameters (705779)  
7.25 News and weather (560846)  
7.30 Crystal Tiptoe and Allstar: Animation (r) (1031972) 7.35 Wiz Bang: Fun and laughter for the young (s) (3927358) 7.45 The Jetsons: Space-age cartoon series (r) (2045934)  
8.05 Eggs 'n' Bisket: Chen Baker learns about Japanese table manners and samples brown stock sushi (s) (8970359) 8.35 Thunderbolt: Cartoon adventures (r) (6545514)  
9.00 Going Live! presented by Philip Schofield and Sarah Greene. The guests include actor John McShane, American singer Amy Grant, Newsworld's Julie Morris, and Emma Forbes who cooks a Kashmiri curry (s) (9165214) 12.12 Womankind (4363201)  
12.15 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 Cricket highlights of the third day's play in the third test between New Zealand and England in Wellington; 12.45, 1.20 and 1.55 Racing from Newbury; 1.00 News; 1.05 Football: a review of the FA Cup fourth round tie; 1.35 and 2.10 Snooker: semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Masters from Wembley 2.45 Rugby League: action from a Sill Cut Challenge Cup second round game; 3.35 Winter Olympics: live coverage of the opening ceremony from Albertville in the French Alps (7672408)  
5.50 News and weather (569959)  
6.00 Regional News (64311)  
6.05 Noel's House Party: Noel Edmonds plays host to Bruno Brookes, Liz Kershaw and Henry Sandon, the ceramic expert of the Antiques Roadshow (s) (927779)  
6.15 Big Break: Shock and general knowledge quiz hosted by Jim Davidson with John Virgo. The contestants are helped by Steve James, Alison Fisher and Willis Thorne (Ceefax) (s) (598408)  
7.25 The Paul Daniels Magic Show: the diminutive magician is joined by Martin Daniels, John Inman and the Russian Gennadi Kit, who blends dance, mime and juggling skills. (Ceefax) (s) (203666)  
8.10 Moon And Son: Nearly Deafly Departed: Gladys finds her life is threatened when an elderly lady remembers awkward facts about a woman's death 20 years earlier. Starring Millicent Martin and John Michie. (Ceefax) (s) (479717)



Consumer newshounds: Esther Rantzen and team (9.00pm)  
9.00 That's Life! Esther Rantzen and her team presents their usual mix of investigations and humour along with the continuing search for a new singing star. (Ceefax) (s) (61663)  
9.45 News with Jeremy Lewis: (Ceefax) Sport and weather (449330)  
10.05 Midnight Caller: Safe Away: Jack (Gary Cole) is understandably shaken when the delicious Devon (Wendy Kilbourn) decides to marry Richard Clark and is tempted to take his shot to the radio (s) (50508)  
10.55 Olympics '92 introduced by Desmond Lyman. The 16th Winter Olympic Games begin with ice hockey. Switzerland meet the gold medalists in the past two Olympics, the Soviet Union, now called the United Team (8537409)  
11.00 Weather (4029441)

## SATELLITE

SKY ONE  
• Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.  
6.00am Danger Bay (21278) 6.30 Elephant Boy (56292) 7.00 Fun Factory (43368)  
11.15 The Big Bang (12400) 12.00 The Big Bang (20300) 1.00pm Combat (21241) 2.00 WMP Superstars of Wrestling (41652) 3.00 Monkey (52959) 4.00 News (569959)  
Robert Stedman (41089) 7.00 T.J. Hooker (52959) 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (71243)  
9.00 Cops 1 (41514) 9.30 Cops 1 (31325)  
10.15 The American Way (51896) 11.00 The Rockers (50508) 12.00 Sunray (50507)  
1.00am Pages from Skylight

SKY NEWS  
• Via the Astra and Marco Polo satellites.  
News on the hour.  
6.00am Sunrise (170379) 8.30 Nightline (20395) 10.00 Dayline (48575) 10.30 Wonders of Our World (50656) 11.00 Dayline

4.00 Rockstars (1980): A teenage vampire is unable to lose his virginity (5150369)  
5.45 Entertainment Tonight (678917)  
6.00 Cocomo: The Return (s) (56292)  
6.30 Newsline Weekend (77445) 7.30 Fashion TV (74693) 8.30 Holiday Destinations (58601)  
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TV (71601) 12.00 Newsline Weekend (52959) 1.20 Newsline Weekend (52959) 2.00 Our World (52959) 3.00 Monkey (52959) 4.00 News (569959)  
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